United Nations S/PV.8414

Security Council

Seventy-third year

Provisional

8414th meeting

Thursday, 6 December 2018, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Amon-Tanoh/Mr. Adom	(Côte d'Ivoire)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
	China	Mr. Ma Zhaoxu
	Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Esono Mbengono
	Ethiopia	Mr. Amde
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Kuwait	Mr. Alotaibi
	Netherlands	Mr. Van Oosterom
	Peru	Mr. Meza-Cuadra
	Poland	Ms. Wronecka
	Russian Federation	Mr. Nebenzia
	Sweden	Mr. Orrenius Skau
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Cohen

Agenda

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

The role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

Letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/1064)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

18-41579 (E)

Accessible document Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security

The role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

Letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2018/1064)

The President (*spoke in French*): I wish to warmly welcome the Secretary-General, who is honouring us again today with his presence, the Ministers and other representatives present in the Security Council Chamber. Their presence today underscores the importance of the subject matter under discussion.

In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, the Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Viet Nam to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Serge Christiane, Acting Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2018/1064, which contains the text of a letter dated 28 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept note on the item under consideration.

I wish to warmly welcome His Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres, to whom I now give the floor.

The Secretary-General (*spoke in French*): Following the debate yesterday (see S/PV.8413), I again thank the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire for having proposed this open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention of conflicts.

(*spoke in English*)

Our world is faced with complex threats that are multidimensional, interconnected and unpredictable. The number of countries experiencing violent conflict is higher than it has been in 30 years. The number of low-intensity conflicts has increased by 60 per cent in the past 10 years. We have a responsibility to act, not in isolation but collectively.

Since assuming office, I have prioritized prevention of all kinds, from conflicts to natural disasters to pandemics and the foreseeable dangers posed by new technologies. There are complex links among those threats, which can reinforce and amplify each other and should not be seen in isolation. I have therefore called on all parts of the United Nations system to focus on prevention, including, obviously as a priority for us, the prevention of conflict. We are overwhelmingly managing crisis and conflict, when we should put far more effort into preventing them from happening in the first place. Rather than launching humanitarian aid operations to save lives, we should invest in reducing the need for aid.

For us, prevention is an end in itself. It should never be seen as the instrument of any other political agenda. First and foremost, it saves lives and protects people from harm. But prevention also makes economic sense. The recent United Nations-World Bank study entitled *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict* concluded that prevention would save approximately $34 billion in damage in countries that

avoid war. Those benefits are compounded over time, to reach over $140 billion after 15 years. From greater use of my good offices, including through my Special Representatives and Envoys, to investing in mediation, to strengthening the contribution of peacekeeping and peacebuilding to prevention, we are working to improve our capacity. The endorsement of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative by 151 Member States is a strong sign of support for the central role of our peacekeepers in preventing conflicts from worsening, and in proactively supporting peace.

Beyond the peace and security pillar, the entire United Nations system is tackling the root causes that can make communities and societies vulnerable to violence and conflict, which often lie in competition over control of power and resources, inequality and exclusion, unmet aspirations, the marginalization of women, young people and minority groups, poor governance and the instrumentalization of ethnic and religious divisions. They are also interlinked and exacerbated by climate change, migration, transnational crimes and global terrorism.

All our work to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, from human rights and humanitarian affairs to gender equality, environmental protection and combating climate change, has a role in preventing conflict. Sustainable development is an end in itself, and must be considered as such. But it is also one of the most effective tools for prevention. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will make a significant contribution to tackling root causes and building lasting peace.

While conflict between States has declined, internal conflicts are increasing and account for the majority of humanitarian needs and displacement around the world. Strong, resilient societies are enriched, not threatened, by diversity. But such societies do not come about by chance. As societies become more multi-ethnic and multireligious, cultural and economic investments in cohesion are vital. Every member, every group, must feel valued.

We must also invest in education and training for young people so that they have hope and prospects for the future. Young women and men must be empowered to participate in making the decisions that affect their lives. That is a vital goal in itself, but it is also essential to counter the risk of alienation and susceptibility to extremist narratives, and even recruitment. By the same token, we must invest in helping countries and communities that are emerging from conflict. Justice, truth and reconciliation are essential for societies to heal and move beyond war. The United Nations works to support such efforts in many countries and regions of the world. States and subregional and regional organizations are our vital partners in all those efforts, and we are working together with respect and trust.

Our relationship with the African Union is showing the way forward, through our frameworks for enhanced partnership for peace and security and the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I am delighted that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission is here to discuss this important issue with us today.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations shows the visionary genius of those who drafted our foundational document. At that time, regional organizations barely existed. Seventy years on, regional and subregional organizations are an indispensable part of the rules-based global order. Chapter VIII even envisages our cooperation on joint peacekeeping operations. Regional and subregional organizations have the proximity, experience, knowledge of local dynamics, flexibility and relationships to engage more rapidly and effectively when situations deteriorate.

In the Gambia two years ago, the coordinated joint action of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations and neighbouring countries helped to prevent a political crisis and supported a peaceful, democratic political transition. In Madagascar, the United Nations worked in close coordination with the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the International Organization of la Francophonie to facilitate dialogue, which contributed to peaceful presidential elections last month. We hope that cooperation will be maintained in the near future. When crises broke out in Mali and the Central African Republic, the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States were the first to deploy troops and engage in mediation efforts. The African Union took over the operations, which later became United Nations peacekeeping operations. In Central Asia, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia supports regional dialogue on transboundary water management and promotes water diplomacy, in close cooperation with national Governments and the International Fund for Saving the

Aral Sea. And in the aftermath of contested elections in Honduras in November 2017, the United Nations maintained close contacts with the Organization of American States to ease tensions and facilitate dialogue. Those efforts should — and must — be replicated elsewhere.

(*spoke in French*)

That was the subject of the high-level interactive dialogue that I organized in June with the leaders of various organizations, including regional ones, to consider ways and means of strengthening our cooperation by placing special focus on prevention. I intend to continue that dialogue and intensify our collaboration with a view to contributing our expertise and support to anchor stable and resilient societies. I also intend to take inspiration from the success of frameworks adopted by the United Nations and the African Union, but also coordination mechanisms in other regions of the world. The reforms I have undertaken will help us to improve the coherence of our efforts. In particular, we need to help regional and subregional organizations to better anticipate crises and take preventive measures early. The Alert and Response System of the Economic Community of States of West Africa is a rather edifying example in that regard.

No State or organization can alone overcome the current challenges, whether they involve climate change or inequality. I fear therefore that the current political trends, prevailing pessimism and lack of confidence could undermine multilateralism and the international rules-based system. I urge world leaders to renew their commitment to inclusive multilateralism based on the Charter of the United Nations, and on the principles of complementarity and subsidiarity. I also urge them to use the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals as a global plan of action. The willingness to collaborate and act quickly must be translated into genuine and tangible results. Promoting prevention and resilience must be at the heart of our collective efforts.

I believe that we have the knowledge and resources required to achieve that objective. We lack only the courage and political will. We must involve everyone in building stable and resilient societies, work together with management teams, ensure the full participation of women and harness the energy and creativity of young people. Conflict prevention is a responsibility we all share. Regional and subregional organizations play a key role in implementing a global multidimensional strategy that can meet the challenges ahead.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Secretary-General for his briefing. I would like to reiterate that the President of Côte d'Ivoire thanks him for contributing to yesterday's debate.

I now give the floor to Mr. Faki Mahamat.

Mr. Faki Mahamat (*spoke in French*): Today's debate on conflict prevention takes place at a time when the international order is faced with a series of diverse and grave threats. Whether related to climate change, migration, the rise in racism and xenophobia, transnational crime or terrorism, such threats exacerbate current situations and could transform latent tension into open conflicts.

Today's debate addresses an issue that is extremely sensitive for Africa, as well as for the rest of the world, because it is true that the challenges in question transcend borders and continents. Today's debate is also crucial for the Security Council, whose credibility and legitimacy can be heightened only if it is able to effectively address international crises. I commend Côte d'Ivoire for convening a debate on this issue. The commitment to silencing the guns by 2020, which is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, not only entails settling current conflicts; but also building peace where it has already been achieved and preventing new crises, in particular in Africa.

The need for sustained action in the area of conflict prevention is indeed one of the issues that enjoy the broadest consensus within the international community. Very often, however, such consensus exists more in theory than in practice. There are many challenges to effective preventive action. In my opinion, two arise most frequently. The first is linked to the reticence of States that view any early intervention as a threat to their sovereignty. The second lies in the culture of urgency, which ends up tainting international action in several areas.

An awareness of that situation led to the development of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council, which made prevention one of the African Union's top priorities. Since the adoption of the Protocol, the African Union has significantly strengthened its capacity to prevent, manage and settle conflicts. There is no better illustration of that encouraging development

than the progress made on the deployment of African peacekeeping operations. In recent years, experience has clearly shown that such operations are useful tools for curbing violence and preventing its escalation. They are part of the range of instruments at the disposal of the African Union in the area of preventive diplomacy.

The issue of funding such operations has been on the agenda of the Security Council for more than a decade. We are pleased to note that, throughout this time, the international community has become increasingly aware. Everyone acknowledges the fact that international crisis-response mechanisms are not suited to today's challenges. The reasons for that situation are well known and linked to the nature of conflicts, which are often intra-State rather than inter-State, the high number of actors involved, extreme violence, the scourge of terrorism and organized crime. Those are the many factors that have shaken the very foundations of peacekeeping operations, including the conditions of their deployment. The situation on the ground has become so complex that waiting to fully restore, build and keep the peace often means being unable to help people in danger.

That is the context in which the division of labour between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, has evolved. The African Union has demonstrated that it can intervene rapidly in complex environments to curb violence, facilitate peace and create the conditions for keeping it. The partnership between the African Union and the United Nations has evolved to allow for creative negotiations on current security challenges. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the transitions in Mali and the Central African Republic from African missions to United Nations missions, and the considerable support that the United Nations provides to our mission in Somalia are illuminating examples in that regard. We should ask ourselves if the situation in the countries concerned would have arisen had the international community opted only for orthodoxy and conservatism instead of the innovation required by the circumstances.

It is up to us to go even further. Those extra steps are not a leap into the unknown. They represent the extension of what we have already experienced, the lessons learned from the multifaceted support provided by the United Nations and the resolutions already adopted on the issue. The approach of adopting a resolution on sustainable and predictable funding for African peace operations, which was solemnly reiterated by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its meeting three days ago, is important. I must underscore that such operations are possible only with the consent of the Security Council. The Security Council must be allowed to more effectively assume its primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security by using all the resources offered by the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union must be further cemented by ensuring a better distribution of the financial burden that comes with promoting peace.

Over the years, we have taken several initiatives precisely to shoulder our share of the responsibility in that area. African leaders have agreed to fund up to 25 per cent of the continent's peace and security agenda. We have revitalized the African Union Peace Fund. More than $80 million has already been raised and its Board of Trustees has just been established. We have taken concrete steps to ensure greater accountability and respect for human rights in the conduct of our operations. Admittedly, additional efforts are required, but the foundations for a Security Council decision have already been laid.

The renewed determination of Africa to play a greater role in the promotion of international peace and security must find support in this Council Chamber. Now is not the time to hesitate with respect to our continent, still less so at a later time. The draft resolution for Africa proposed by the three African members of the Security Council sets out a framework that in no way prejudges subsequent decisions by the Council on a case-by-case basis and does not have any financial impact at this stage. It preserves the authority of the Security Council. I would even say that it reinforces it, because it gives it more effective control over the conduct of African operations partially supported by the United Nations. We call for consensus on texts, on the understanding that this one should not empty them of their substance. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work done by the three African members in this regard. It was a truly consultative approach that guided their efforts.

Today we are at a turning point. We must seize the opportunity to better address the challenges of peace and security. That is what our continent expects, as do many other members of the international community — of that I am sure. In an unpredictable

international environment where threats that are becoming more serious and complex every day, we cannot adopt a wait-and-see attitude. Sooner or later we will pay dearly for such an attitude.

I have come to the Security Council to express Africa's renewed faith in the United Nations and its hope in its ability to meet the challenges of the day. I have come to say that the African Union is determined to play its rightful role in the collective endeavour to strengthen our shared Organization and make it more effective in promoting peace and security. I have come to acknowledge the need to work with a strong sense of urgency towards the advent of an international peace and security architecture that is in line with the threats of today and tomorrow. May this faith and hope come out of this debate stronger than before.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Faki Mahamat for his briefing and for honouring the Côte d'Ivoire with his presence again at this second debate.

I now give the floor to Mr. Brou.

Mr. Brou (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the institutions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), I would like at the beginning of my briefing to express my condolences to the Government and the people of the United States on the occasion of the passing of Mr. George H. W. Bush, forty-first President of the United States of America.

I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to participate in this important meeting, which is in line with the high-level meeting presided over yesterday by His Excellency Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, whose theme was post-conflict reconstruction and peace, security and stability (see S/PV.8413). All of yesterday's statements provided ample evidence of the reciprocal causality between sustainable economic development and peace and security. Today's theme gives us the opportunity to deepen our reflections on the international community's efforts to promote peace and security. I would like to make three observations that summarize the action of ECOWAS on this key issue.

The first concerns the ECOWAS internal mechanism for peace and stability in the region. The civil wars in the region, particularly those in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and their consequences — destabilizing for security and devastating for the economic and social development of these countries — led in particular to the adoption of the ECOWAS Revised Treaty in 1993. Through this revision, the regional peace and security agenda was added to the Community's original agenda, namely, regional economic integration and development, with the overall objective of creating a peaceful and secure environment conducive to regional integration and economic development in the region. ECOWAS has adopted two major instruments enabling it to intervene at any time in crisis prevention, management and resolution, as well as to undertake peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction: the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security, adopted in 1999, and the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, adopted in 2001. These two instruments provide the legal framework for and give legitimacy to ECOWAS interventions.

These actions are carried out, on the one hand, at the level of crisis prevention, to prevent tensions and perceptible disputes from escalating and turning into conflicts. In this way, we avoid the dramatic consequences of conflicts while avoiding the cost of a hypothetical intervention. Preventive actions and preventive diplomacy have been conducted in almost all States at the precise moment when a crisis emerges. They are less visible but have helped to reduce tensions and avoid the emergence of difficult situations.

Preventive diplomacy actions are more frequent during electoral processes, especially during elections. They have been successfully deployed in the presidential elections in Guinea, Nigeria and Ghana, and more recently in Sierra Leone and Mali. In addition, recently, preventive diplomacy actions were carried out in Nigeria in anticipation of the upcoming elections.

Furthermore, to enhance the effectiveness of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, ECOWAS is establishing an early-warning and response system, based on the collection and analysis of a variety of indicators in the political, social, economic, climate and environmental fields. Based on a regional architecture, this arrangement is being extended with the creation of early-warning and response mechanisms at the national level; these are already in place in five Member States. The programme envisages a gradual extension to the other countries of the region.

With respect to crisis management and resolution, interventions are deployed when preventive diplomacy

actions have not achieved the expected results or have led to open crises or when crises occur in an unpredictable manner. These actions focus on facilitation or mediation efforts between national political actors, and, in extreme cases, involve the deployment of peacekeeping missions. The recent history of ECOWAS is rich with these missions. They include, for example, mediation in the political crises in Togo and the Niger, in 2005 and 2009, respectively; multiple mediations in Guinea Bissau, resulting in the deployment of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea Bissau since 2012; the case of Côte d'Ivoire, presented yesterday by His Excellency the President of the Republic; mediation efforts in the post-electoral crisis in the Gambia following the presidential election of December 2016, which led to the deployment of the ECOWAS Mission in the Gambia (ECOMIG); and the ongoing mediation in the political crisis in Togo.

The second observation that underlies our action is the partnership in all the aforementioned areas of intervention. Collaboration with all partners, in particular the African Union and the United Nations, is a constant feature of our action. We coordinate our actions to ensure better visibility and efficiency. The partnership is characterized by the following.

First, our partners, in particular the representative of the African Union and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, participate in all meetings of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council at the ministerial level and the Meeting of Heads of State and Government, the main decision-making bodies on issues of regional peace and security.

The second element is the political support of the African Union and the United Nations for the deployment of peace missions. Such support was instrumental in defining the mandate of ECOMIG and in its deployment, which required the authorization of the Security Council;

Third is the conduct of joint missions with the United Nations, particularly in Burkina Faso in 2014 during the political crisis and in Mali in 2012 following the military coup d'état, and preventive diplomacy, as I have already mentioned, in Guinea, Nigeria, Ghana and, more recently, Sierra Leone.

Lastly, as part of strengthening that cooperation, on 23 April, ECOWAS signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations, which covers areas related to political dialogue, national reconciliation, democratic governance and conflict prevention and management, as well as human rights and the rule of law.

The third observation relates to the implementation of post-conflict reconstruction activities. The aim of such work is to build peace through support so as to prevent the resurgence of conflict, including through institution-building, reconciliation and the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform programmes. In Guinea-Bissau, the security sector reform programme was launched in 2013. In The Gambia, for example, it involved supporting the Government in drawing up and implementing a security sector reform programme and capacity-building of the National Assembly in its role of political control over the defence and security forces. ECOWAS also supports the Government in its efforts to improve the management and security of weapons and ammunition stockpiles.

Currently, there is close cooperation with the United Nations and the African Union through the joint missions deployed in various countries. More recently, ECOWAS has embarked on programmes in other areas, namely, providing basic goods and services to disadvantaged groups, particularly women; supporting resilience in the agricultural sector; and facilitating reintegration through training and job-creation programmes. Such activities are necessary to create the conditions for sustainable peace.

In conclusion, ECOWAS remains strongly committed to working with all its partners, in particular the United Nations and the African Union, in order to maintain and build peace and to ensure sustainable development. I would like to end my remarks by reiterating our sincere thanks for the opportunity of this meeting.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Brou for his briefing.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to preside over today's Security Council meeting following that of yesterday, which was presided over by Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (see S/PV.8413). I would like to thank Secretary-General António Guterres, who honours Côte d'Ivoire with his

presence on two successive days — at yesterday's high-level debate and again today. I congratulate him on the quality of his briefing. I would also like to thank my two brothers Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, who, after being present yesterday, honour us with their presence today. I congratulate them on their valuable contributions to today's debate. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the eminent persons who have kindly accepted our invitation, honouring us with their presence at this meeting on a topic that we hold dear, namely, the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The increasing number and continuance of conflicts in the world, which are testing the United Nations peace architecture, as well as the various crisis prevention and resolution mechanisms, continue to represent significant challenges and sources for collective reflection for the Council and the international community.

Given the complexity of the situation, it is increasingly necessary to adopt innovative and inclusive approaches that go off the beaten path and to call for common action and the greater involvement of all national, subregional, regional and international stakeholders in the prevention and management of conflicts.

In this globalized world, where no organization alone can shoulder the responsibility for managing the threats to collective security, strengthening cooperation and coordination among national actors, subregional and regional organizations and the United Nations is imperative.

In our view, the pursuit of a more inclusive approach of all actors, taking into account a clear definition of responsibilities, remains the most effective way to ensure the prevention and management of the conflicts that are at the heart of the agenda of the Security Council and underpin its existence.

Conflict prevention and management, which are increasingly multifaceted, necessarily require a common strategy, accepted by all, with national ownership and clear priorities, to which the United Nations, the international community and national partners should devote sufficient resources. The case of my country is a perfect illustration of that.

States of course have the primary responsibility for detecting and eliminating the structural and cyclical factors conducive to the outbreak of crises, in particular by reducing inequalities, promoting the rule of law and good governance, facilitating access to employment for young people and ensuring political support for resource mobilization, both human and material.

After more than a decade of crisis, Côte d'Ivoire, which very early on realized the stakes of restoring stability, has resolutely embarked on the path of peace-building thanks to the excellent cooperation between the Ivorian Government and the United Nations through the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

The combined national and international efforts resulted in establishing, in the context of the Peacebuilding Fund, a joint plan, called the Peacebuilding Priority Plans for 2011-2014 and 2015-2017. It has $30 million and has supported local efforts in the areas of governance, preserving the social climate, normalizing political life and ensuring the security of people and property.

Consequently, the Ivorian Government, with the assistance of its partners, has managed to restore State authority and security throughout the national territory, accelerate and make national reconciliation and social cohesion irreversible, successfully implement the DDR and security sector reform programmes, and promote the rule of law and human rights.

Since the departure of UNOCI in June 2017, the Government has capitalized on all those achievements and continues that worthy course with the support of the United Nations country team.

The support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the national development plan 2016-2020 is eloquent testimony to that. Those actions have allowed us to preserve the State and its institutions and to organize national and local elections in peace, security and stability, which has greatly contributed to the current economic growth in Côte d'Ivoire. The Ivorian experience in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, must therefore be pursued and shared.

In recent years, there have been major developments in conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa. They are particularly marked by shared responsibilities and the primacy of regional and subregional actors in the conduct of the earliest

peace initiatives after the outbreak of conflict, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. It is in the name of that principle that ECOWAS is playing an increasingly decisive and leading role in the settlement of conflicts in our region. Thus, in my country, for example, negotiations conducted by Senegal, in its former capacity as Chairperson of ECOWAS, led to the first ceasefire agreement with the Ivorian rebels in October 2002 in Bouaké. In addition, in the framework of ECOWAS mechanisms, Togo hosted the first inter-Ivorian negotiations from October to December 2002, which had the merit of establishing the bases of a political solution to the conflict.

I also welcome the mediation of other friendly countries, such as Ghana and South Africa, under whose auspices several agreements were signed between the Ivorian warring parties. The African Union and then the United Nations subsequently took over from ECOWAS in the conduct of political and military processes. Finally, Burkina Faso played a decisive role in organizing the October 2010 presidential elections in my country.

In Mali in 2012, the resolve of President Alassane Ouattara, who was Chairperson of ECOWAS at the time, and the mobilization of his peers enabled the return to constitutional order in the country after the putsch led by Captain Sanogo. That regional commitment also helped to mobilize the international community, particularly France, whose military intervention prevented terrorist groups from the north of the country from seizing Bamako. I thank the French authorities for the action being taken by the French army in the Sahel against the terrorist groups that threaten our common security in West Africa. In all these situations, the African Union, followed by the United Nations, took over from ECOWAS on the political and security levels. It is clear from all this that the State's close cooperation with subregional and regional organizations and the United Nations is an undeniable asset for crisis prevention and management.

In that sense, the strategic partnership between regional organizations and the United Nations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, must be more closely oriented towards action and results, shared responsibility, the spirit of cooperation and enhanced coordination. In that regard, the African Union, through its regional conflict prevention and management mechanisms, has established itself today as an essential and credible partner of the United Nations. To that end, the signing on 19 April 2017 by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, is the expression of the strategic commitment of these two organizations to address threats to peace and security on the continent.

Today, the political and military mechanisms deployed by subregional and regional organizations in the context of conflict prevention and resolution, which have already proved their effectiveness, deserve to be strengthened so as to be more effective. Peacekeeping, an essential tool of the United Nations for promoting and ensuring international peace and security, faces many challenges that significantly affect its effectiveness. The extent of the challenges facing our world calls for diligent action on our part, which highlights the important of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, which my country fully endorses.

It is important to recall that some of the major obstacles to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations include the way host countries and populations perceive those missions, vague mandates and the inadequacy of the human and logistical resources available. It should be noted that peacekeeping operations with clear, precise and objective mandates support national political processes. Côte d'Ivoire supports the Secretary-General's vision of peacekeeping, which is first and foremost one of collective responsibility. There is therefore a need to act together to address, through peacekeeping operations, contemporary challenges to peace and security. Moreover, strengthening the troop capacities and taking account of the gender dimension in peacekeeping operations could play a decisive role in the effective implementation of their mandates.

International security remains inextricably linked to peace and security in Africa — a continent where complex and multifaceted security challenges, as well as the perpetuation of conflicts, undermine the foundations of stability and development.

In regard to funding at the African level, Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the fact that, in 2017, the African Union Peace Fund received the highest level of contributions from member States since its establishment in 1993. In that regard, it is important to note once again that only solidarity between the United Nations and the African Union will make it possible

to consider appropriate and lasting solutions in the framework of a common vision for the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. That highlights the need for close cooperation between those two organizations, which deserves to be encouraged and strengthened, particularly with respect to the crucial issue of financing African peace operations. In that regard, my country welcomes the gradual evolution of approaches with a view to improving the financing of peace support operations in Africa, and that this step is an essential link in the process of stabilizing the continent.

Indeed, resolution 2320 (2016) marked a major step in the United Nation's commitment to African Union peacekeeping operations by demonstrating the Council's readiness to consider funding proposals, in accordance, inter alia, with international obligations applicable to the principles of accountability and transparency, to which African Union peace support operations are subject. In that regard, resolution 2378 (2017) is also an important step in the right direction, expressing the Security Council's intention to consider the practical arrangements and conditions necessary for the establishment of a mechanism whereby authorized African operations, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, could be financed on a case-by-case basis.

My country is of the view that measures should therefore be taken on the basis of bolder commitments, particularly aimed at the establishment of flexible, predictable and sustainable financing based on assessed contributions. Côte d'Ivoire therefore invites all stakeholders to take a further step towards finding lasting and solutions that are essential to the effective functioning of African Union peace support operations.

In any case, it is in the context of a united effort and the genuine involvement of all its actors that the international community will succeed in strengthening conflict resolution and prevention mechanisms, which can make an effective contribution to international peace and security. Côte d'Ivoire intends to play its full part in that regard and hopes that its experience in emerging from crisis, which it is eager to share, will contribute to achieving these objectives for the well-being of the peoples and development of Africa.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to the members of the Security Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Delattre (France) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to warmly thank Côte d'Ivoire for organizing this important debate, presided over by the Ivorian Minister for Foreign Affairs, whose presence and statement I welcome. The successful experience of Côte d'Ivoire — which is in many ways exemplary, as you have just recalled, Sir — certainly imbues your message with particular weight as regards our work. Allow me also to thank you for the warm words you have just pronounced regarding my country. Better coordination between the United Nations, regional organizations and States is essential to meeting our common goal of improved conflict prevention and resolution.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Chairperson of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for their presence, their important briefings and their exemplary commitment.

Today, I will deliver three principal messages on behalf of France. The first is a call to further strengthen the necessary synergy between the United Nations and regional organizations. The second emphasizes the absolutely strategic nature and importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. The third is a message of support for African peace operations.

My first message is a call to pool our efforts to better prevent and resolve conflicts. France fully supports the vision of the Secretary-General. We must do more upstream by investing in conflict prevention, and downstream by supporting peace and reconciliation processes. France once again commends the efforts of the Secretary-General and his team to strengthen the prevention and mediation capacities of the United Nations.

To better prevent conflicts, it is imperative to go beyond the silo approach and to decompartmentalize our interventions. In that sense, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus must be given practical expression on the ground in order to provide comprehensive and consistent responses to crises. That is not a conceptual issue; it is a question of the necessity of efficiency and, I would say, common sense. It is a response to the challenges on the ground that must be given with respect to institutional or bureaucratic considerations, and not the other way around. That

is why we need to strengthen the exchange between United Nations agencies and among bilateral and multilateral actors in order to make the best use of resources and skills. For the same reason, we must as a matter of necessity promote synergies between the United Nations and regional organizations.

This is not about a political game or trying to please any particular person. It is a question of being more effective together in the service of our shared goals. Regional and subregional organizations have assets that the United Nations does not have. They are closer to the action, more often have a more in-depth knowledge of what is happening on the ground, and have invaluable human networks. We must therefore work together and in a spirit of trust, share information and analysis, and carry out joint initiatives. It is together, hand in hand, that we can advance peace. We are convinced that the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations is one of the keys to the success of multilateralism, in which we believe now more than ever. In that regard, I wish to commend the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission, which is cooperating ever more closely with regional organizations in the context of the so-called country-specific configurations. That is a step in the right direction that should be continued and expanded.

The State is also indispensable of course. National authorities, but also civil societies, especially women's organizations, must be fully involved in international efforts to prevent or resolve conflicts. We all know that ownership by the actors concerned is the prerequisite for lasting peace.

My second message concerns the special importance of the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. France is of the view that the partnership between the United Nations, the African Union and African subregional organizations is of absolutely strategic importance today. That is why we are resolutely committed to supporting its development, which in our view has immense potential. We welcome the important progress made under the joint leadership of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, especially since the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in April 2017.

That partnership is manifest today in a very concrete and operational way on the ground to prevent crisis and conflict situations. To name just a few of many examples, the case of The Gambia is an example worth following. The combined efforts of the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS have helped to prevent the post-electoral crisis from turning into a conflict of which the people would have been, as always, the main victims. More recently, Madagascar has also seen the success of joint prevention efforts led by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the United Nations and the European Union, also making it possible to avoid a major crisis surrounding the organization of presidential elections.

We further welcome the efforts undertaken by the African Union and its member States, as well as by African subregional organizations, to prevent and respond to crisis situations on the continent, thanks in particular to the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative, which we fully support. The African Peer Review Mechanism is also a valuable tool for conflict prevention in Africa.

My third message is a call to support African peace operations. As Council members know, France fully supports the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, and we will continue to plead resolutely for the widest possible support from the United Nations to the Force, which embodies the commitment of the States of the Sahel to their own safety.

As I recalled yesterday in the presence of President Alassane Ouattara (see S/PV.8413), France fully supports the initiative, led by the African Union and the three African members of the Security Council, aimed at adopting an ambitious draft resolution on African peace operations by the end of the year. Such operations will enable intervention as early as possible before crises degenerate and destabilize one or more States in the long term. They testify to the African Union's desire to become more deeply involved in the security of the African continent, as Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire so resolutely and eloquently recalled today.

Let us all stand alongside our African partners in support of their efforts. It is in our interest and corresponds to the flow of history.

Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Republic of Equatorial Guinea should like to thank His Excellency Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cote

d'Ivoire, and his country for organizing this open debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. We also welcome the presence of Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission. We are pleased to see His Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres among us once again, and we welcome also the presence of His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States. We convey to all of them our thanks for their informative briefings.

Bringing peace to Africa and the comprehensive development of the continent is one of the main of objectives of my country's foreign policy under the leadership of His Excellency President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. My delegation therefore welcomes this open debate given the importance of strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, which contributes to improving and sustaining peace and security, not only on the African continent, but also at the global level.

By holding this debate, we are reinforcing the message underlying the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, which is important if we are to meet the goals set by both organizations with regard to conflict management and prevention. The latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2018/678) indicates, that, despite the security challenges and obstacles present in regions affected by active conflict, such as in Libya, the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa, the Lake Chad basin and the Great Lakes region, there has been significant progress thanks to the continued economic and logistical support that has been received and to the cooperation among the United Nations, international partners and the African Union with the host Governments of peace missions, regional economic bodies and regional mechanisms, as they enjoy the advantage of superior knowledge of their own region, which makes it easier for them not only to act quickly and prevent conflicts, but also to prevent them from spilling over into neighbouring regions.

That is all attributable to certain key elements, including their proximity to conflicts, experience and cultural similarity. As they are familiar with local cultures, regional organizations could work more effectively in the area of early-warning and conflict-prevention systems. In the area of operations, the United Nations should provide support in the form of the technical, financial and institutional assistance necessary to carry out large-scale peacekeeping activities.

The African Union has proved to be a key partner for the United Nations in steadfastly proposing innovative responses, based on the comparative advantage of the rapid deployment of peace missions with strong mandates within the framework of continental and regional agreements, thereby demonstrating the flexibility of the African Peace and Security Architecture and its ability to adapt to constantly evolving security challenges.

Africa is an important part of ongoing peacekeeping operations, not only in terms of hosting United Nations missions, but also, and especially, in terms of the military contingents and police units that its countries provide. We therefore believe that funding should be stepped up, that mechanisms for voluntary contributions from Member States and other external as well as African sources should be improved, and that the United Nations should provide continuous training to the armies of countries that traditionally contribute military personnel to peacekeeping missions and other countries in need of such training, as well as work closely with missions with regard to promoting sustainable peacekeeping.

Ultimately, conflict resolution in Africa requires greater political harmony between and a well-developed joint vision for the African Union and the United Nations, including improved coordination between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, the development and identification of cooperation modalities, the promotion of mutual respect and the establishment of an operational decision-making mechanism shared by the two organizations. The African Union and other regional and subregional organizations in Africa enjoy unique advantages and a great deal of experience in resolving critical problems on the continent. The United Nations and other partners are a necessary factor to ensure greater effectiveness in the quest for lasting and beneficial solutions.

That very same idea was taken up yesterday by His Excellency Mr. Simeon Oyono Esono Angue, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea (see S/PV.8413), when he spoke of the simple and clear equation of cooperation. In that regard, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea welcomes the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework

for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which outlines closer collaboration, more regular exchanges of information and consultations and coordinated action to promote lasting peace and security in Africa.

With regard to transparency and respect for human rights and humanitarian law during peace operations, we believe that it is important to establish mechanisms and measures within missions and organizations that would focus on strengthening policies to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and step up disciplinary responses and corrective action in cases of violation of the relevant norms. Equatorial Guinea therefore welcomes the African Union Peace and Security Council's adoption of the draft policy on conduct and discipline for peace support operations and the draft policy for prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse for peace support operations. On the other hand, although new mechanisms and strategies for the implementation of human rights policies are being adopted, it is necessary to strengthen existing mechanisms so as to ensure that they are respected in the deployment of personnel from troop-contributing countries, as well as to ensure compliance with training standards for African Union peace support operations.

In order to address the issue of conflict prevention, especially with regard to those conflicts affecting the African continent, Equatorial Guinea deems it of utmost importance to promote economic and social development in Africa, as the lack of sustainable economic management, the disparity among various social classes, gender inequality and extreme poverty are the main factors exacerbating existing conflicts, such as terrorism, transnational crime and drug trafficking. We also deem important the professionalization of women in the areas of diplomacy and preventive mediation at all levels, as well as their consequent integration into all stages of the peace process, as we see such inclusivity as critical to achieving sustainable and permanent peace on the continent.

In conclusion, we would like to highlight resolutions 2320 (2016), of 18 November 2016, and 2378 (2017), of 20 September 2017, which emphasize the need to improve the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace operations previously authorized by the Security Council, to be financed by United Nations contributions, based on strict case-by-case analyses. In that regard, we see the need for the members of the Council to approve the draft resolution on financing for African Union peace support operations, which is expected to be introduced during the presidency of Côte d'Ivoire. While we note that that would constructively support the African initiative mentioned in the latest report of the Secretary-General, which indicates that the African Union has moved towards the operationalization of the African Peace Fund, African States have in fact contributed $74 million to the Fund so far, an amount that, it is hoped, will reach $100 million by early 2019. In that regard, we hope that the dynamic of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations will find a platform enabling them to step up cooperative efforts with a view to achieving stable and lasting peace in all conflicts throughout the world, in which regional organizations could play a decisive role given their knowledge of local circumstances and their proximity to specific situations on the ground.

Mr. Skoog (Sweden): I wish to thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for their valuable remarks this morning.

During our very first month as a Security Council member, in January 2017, we organized a debate on conflict prevention and sustaining peace, at which the Secretary-General had the opportunity to set out his vision for a surge in diplomacy for peace and effective conflict prevention (see S/PV.7857). We did so because we saw a need for a new political consensus in support of prevention and a commitment to policies and actions that prevent conflicts before they begin. Now, nearly 24 months later, how have we done? As our term on the Council is ending, it is only natural to look back at what has been achieved and what conclusions can be drawn. Even though we have seen a new momentum for prevention overall, when it comes to the actual prevention of conflict, the Council is still falling short. We should all be held to account for that.

The Charter of the United Nations provides us with a clear mandate to investigate any situation that might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute. Yet we still spend the majority of our time and resources trying to manage the conflicts on our agenda. A culture of complacency surrounding conflict prevention has very real costs and, in the long term, risks undermining the credibility of this institution.

Today's meeting therefore provides us with a useful opportunity to focus on the earlier phases of preventing

and resolving conflicts and on how to overcome the current status quo. That includes an important discussion on how to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as they play a key role in complementing the United Nations in the fields of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Regional organizations are crucial partners in that work, as they are often the first to identify the initial signs and risks of potential conflicts and have a good understanding of the issues at stake and carry credibility at the local levels. We have seen numerous examples in which their early engagement has changed potentially negative outcomes for the better, and we have also seen the effectiveness of regional approaches in resolving conflicts.

ECOWAS played a key role in achieving a successful outcome in the Ivorian peace process and in its resolute actions in the Gambia, which, with the active support of the Council, ushered in a peaceful transition of power in January 2017. In the Horn of Africa, we have seen how the courageous decisions of leaders have generated hope and prospects for peace and development in the whole region, and how the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has been instrumental in reaching a revitalized peace agreement for South Sudan. It is crucial that organizations such as the African Union (AU), ECOWAS, the Southern African Development Community and IGAD have the necessary capacity to engage in the early stages of conflict.

The United Nations and regional and subregional organizations have important, complementary roles in conflict prevention. Sweden has therefore been a long-standing supporter of an enhanced strategic partnership between the United Nations and the AU, and we welcome the renewed momentum and concrete steps taken to advance that, not least thanks to the dedicated leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

We have already benefited from that closer cooperation, including during the recent joint visit by United Nations and AU officials to Lake Chad, South Sudan and the Sahel. The collaboration between our two Councils has also increased, as demonstrated by the fruitful meeting between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in July, in which we saw constructive discussions, concrete outcomes and unified messages. That spirit now needs to be further built upon, including through our two Councils conducting joint field visits in order to further facilitate a shared analysis of the situations on our agendas.

The United Nations regional offices represent some of the most effective mechanisms at our disposal for conflict prevention and resolution, and we see scope for establishing further such offices in other parts of the world. The United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and its preventive functions must be built upon, and we should learn from its successes. We welcome the enlarged mandate for a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, as we see potential for an enhanced role for IGAD in leading integration in the region. The proactive and successful cooperation between the United Nations regional offices and regional organizations should be harnessed to enhance subregional capacities and create synergies.

We commend the work carried out by the AU to strengthen its capacity in preventing, mediating and settling conflicts on the African continent, consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. We also commend the ongoing effort of the AU to enhance self-reliance and the financing of its activities, and especially welcome its commitment to funding 25 per cent of its peace support operations by 2020, as well as the progress made in fulfilling that commitment.

To realize the full potential of the AU-United Nations partnership, additional financial and political support is now needed. We welcome the ongoing collaborative work on strengthening the oversight and accountability of AU-led peace operations, including by further reinforcing the women and peace and security agenda. We also welcome the ongoing work to strengthen respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and the conduct and discipline framework for AU-led peace operations, in order to enable access to assessed United Nations contributions. The ongoing work on a draft resolution to that effect is important and has our full support.

Our efforts to enhance African capabilities must go beyond strengthening military responses and should rather be based on the presumption of prevention and a focus on early investments, given that prevention not only saves lives, but, as the Secretary-General pointed out this morning, is also economically sensible. There is a need to shift from a silo mentality between mediation, political dialogue, security and development towards taking a holistic and integrated approach. That includes structural prevention at the national level and

building strong and inclusive institutions. Based on the recent discussions and conclusions of the Council and the African Union, we should also cooperate to ensure adequate risk assessments and forecasting analysis pertaining to the root causes of conflict, not least with respect to climate-related security risks. Regional integration is also a powerful vehicle for conflict prevention in the long haul and should therefore be encouraged.

In addition, triangular partnerships between the AU, the United Nations and the European Union should be further explored. The European Union has been a long-standing supporter of the AU's peace operations, not least in Somalia and the Sahel, where we have seen fruitful collaboration between the three organizations. We welcome further opportunities for such trilateral cooperation. We also see the potential for increased European participation in United Nations peacekeeping.

In conclusion, upon entering the Council, incoming elected members are often told that conflict prevention is a difficult topic and that it is too sensitive to try to push this agenda. But really it should be more politically sensitive to continue to fail in that regard. We all have a joint responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that conflict prevention now becomes the new normal and at the very core of our efforts. The permanent members of the Council have a particular responsibility in that regard. Moving forward on enhancing the partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is one critical part in making the Secretary-General's vision for a surge in diplomacy for peace a reality. That will require our substantial and sustained political and financial investments, and Sweden intends to continue to actively contribute to that end.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude to Côte d'Ivoire for having convened this debate on regional cooperation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. We are also deeply honoured by your presence here today, Mr. Minister.

(*spoke in Spanish*)

We are also grateful for the enlightening briefings delivered by the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

We wish to underscore the importance of promoting the greater involvement of States and regional and subregional organizations and their close cooperation with the United Nations system, with a view to preventing and resolving contemporary conflicts more effectively. We emphasize the need to develop a comprehensive legal basis comprising administrative structures and coordination mechanisms with the United Nations and the Security Council, based on Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. That would promote synergies and complementarities between the United Nations system and various regional and subregional organizations, with a view to institutionalizing and increasing the effectiveness of the peace and security architecture.

The Council maintains active cooperation with the African Union and subregional organizations such as ECOWAS, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community. The same is true of the European Union in its involvement in various conflict-affected countries.

In that regard, we would also like to highlight the meeting held last September on the situation in Nicaragua (see S/PV.8340), at which the members of the Council were able to provide support to the efforts of the Organization of American States to contribute to the achievement of a political solution that would make it possible to prevent a major conflict in that country.

The nature and extent of contemporary conflicts reflect the growing vulnerability of many countries to global challenges such as violent extremism leading to terrorism, transnational organized crime and the negative effects of climate change. In that connection, we stress the importance of having the capacity to analyse risks and conflicts, as well as to mediate and, in general, to develop and strengthen inclusive, transparent and accountable institutions.

That is consistent with the concept of sustainable peace and with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. As the Secretary-General has pointed out, in addition to being an end in itself, development is an effective and efficient means of tackling the contemporary proliferation of conflicts by addressing their root causes.

Yesterday, as we considered the importance of supporting national reconstruction and reconciliation processes (see S/PV.8413), we highlighted the Peacebuilding Commission's role in preventing the

recurrence of conflicts by gathering various actors capable of forging the alliances necessary to sustain peace and development.

Within the framework of the reforms that are being promoted, the United Nations system must pay special attention to the development and strengthening of regional capacities to support national efforts. In that regard, we stress the importance of promoting greater participation by women and young people. We also stress the need for fluid coordination mechanisms to enhance the complementarity of the various actors in their distinct operational and geographical scopes, as well as the synergies generated as a result of regional actors' better understanding of the circumstances and requirements on the ground.

That requires predictable, sustainable and flexible financing for peace support operations, which, in turn, requires renewed support from traditional contributors, the development of innovative financial mechanisms and greater involvement of the private sector. In that regard, we believe that, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his Action for Peacekeeping initiative, the Organization must be able to prioritize the financing of support missions deployed by the African Union where the needs are greatest.

We would like to conclude by emphasizing that investment in the development and strengthening of regional capacities for prevention presupposes a more efficient and effective exercise of our shared responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council. I also thank the delegation of your friendly country for holding this important meeting. I would like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, as well as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for their comprehensive and valuable briefings on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, with a focus on the relationship between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is more important than ever. The Secretary-General has stressed on more than one occasion that such cooperation is a need, not a choice. Our world today faces numerous extremely complex challenges that require us to make concerted efforts and achieve a united stance.

The challenges posed by the protracted conflicts and disputes on the African continent have highlighted the role of the United Nations as a key player. In 1960, the first peacekeeping operation in Africa was deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assist the Government in maintaining law and order. Since then, thousands of peacekeepers have been deployed in approximately 31 peacekeeping operations in many African States. Today, the African continent hosts seven of 14 United Nations peacekeeping operations, in addition to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

The African continent is vast, with diverse geographic, ethnic, cultural, social and historical limitations. Those limitations give rise to subregional realities with political and economic dimensions under the umbrella of the AU, realities that have created a new form of cooperation between the United Nations and the AU communities because each conflict is of a different nature and has different characteristics. Security Council resolution 2033 (2012), which calls for continued consultation with the AU and economic regional communities on peace and security challenges, encourages the enhancement and promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies, on the one hand, and, on the other, the AU subregional organizations, including ECOWAS, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of Central African States.

With respect to developing and improving cooperation between the AU and the United Nations, particularly with regard to peacekeeping operations, we must stress that predictable and sustainable financing is the greatest challenge facing all United Nations funds. We would underline the remarks made by the Secretary-General's during the Security Council meeting held yesterday on funding African peacekeeping operations and the importance of supporting them, if possible, through assessed contributions (see S/PV.8413). Hence, Kuwait looks forward to a consensus in the Council on a draft resolution to guarantee financing for peacekeeping operations. The draft is being submitted

by Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea, and is currently subject to consultations.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the AU is an explicit example of the application of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. That cooperation in the fields of peace and security is manifested in two Arab-African countries — Somalia and the Sudan — through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and UNAMID, respectively. Those missions are two different successful models of regional partnerships. The Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, in addressing the issue of partnerships, renews host Governments' commitment regarding peacekeeping operations to do their utmost in the area of peacebuilding and maintaining peace.

All States that sponsored the Declaration are committed to supporting peacekeeping operations, which would provide the United Nations, the AU and subregional organizations in Africa a clear path for cooperation. In that regard, we underscore the importance of launching effective initiatives to reform and develop cooperation in peacekeeping operations and enhance United Nations efforts to support the capacities of the AU and subregional organizations in preventive diplomacy, including mediation, early warning, reconstruction and post-conflict development. That was reflected in the 2010 initiative of the forum of mediators and peace envoys in Africa. The forum is considered to have been the first gathering of the Heads of peacekeeping operations and special political missions of the United Nations with their peers in the AU to coordinate peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping policies at the United Nations and at the continental level. We look forward to the AU achieving its desired goals through the Silencing the Guns on the African continent by 2020 initiative.

In conclusion, given the conflicts in the Arab region, the State of Kuwait looks forward to consolidating cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention and conflict resolution through peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the League of Arab States.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We thank Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and welcome his participation in this debate as President of the Security Council. We would also like to thank him for choosing the theme for today's open debate, namely, "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security", which concerns the prevention and settlement of conflicts. It is important to start this debate by mentioning States, as they take prime responsibility in those processes. We would like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat; and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, for their opinions.

We share the goal of wanting to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations to prevent conflict. That is the goal that is enshrined as a priority in the Charter of the United Nations. Why has it to date not been given due attention? That is a good question. One reason could be a lack of political will and sincerity of intention. The Charter provides Member States with all the instruments necessary to prevent conflict. I am referring, first and foremost, to Chapters I and VI and also other decisions, particularly resolution 2171 (2014), which enshrined the basic principles of international cooperation in that area. All of the decisions adopted confirm that international assistance, including that of the United Nations and regional organizations, must be based on the consent of the host country and complement the efforts of national Governments.

At the same time, each situation is, of course, unique and arises owing to various factors. That means that there can be no universal indicators of conflict. History has shown time and again that conflicts can arise both in contexts where there have been no human rights violations as well as where there is a rather developed State. At the same time, crises are increasingly becoming the cause of external interference or intended provocations. That is why it is important in every situation to make sure that we take an impartial approach and endeavour to seek unique solutions. The work of the United Nations must be based on proven diplomatic instruments, mediation and good offices. Dubious concepts that are not unanimously supported by States can only aggravate those situations and are ultimately in the interests of a fairly small group of countries.

In current conditions, when most crises are domestic and intra-State in nature, the line is becoming fine between mediation, preventive diplomacy and the exertion of pressure on domestic political processes. It should be sufficient to point out the number of crises that have arisen from instances of blatant external interference that were intended to topple Governments that someone did not like — look at the situations in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Nicaragua. That is a far-from-exhaustive list of situations that have recently been discussed in the Security Council. And it is the international community, which is purportedly facing some sort of new challenges to international peace and security, that ends up having to pay for the actions of the foreign puppeteers. In fact, the only thing that is needed to prevent conflict is to stop interfering in internal affairs and stop lecturing about how to build democracy and how to respect human rights. Each State arrives at those values in its own way, and one should not try to impose one's own recipes or punish anyone for non-compliance with them. It is high time for all of us to understand that.

With regard to the settlement of existing conflicts, one of the key instruments for the United Nations remains peacekeeping operations. Given the complex, ever-changing nature of peacekeeping missions, they must be adapted regularly. That is something that needs to be done in full compliance with the decisions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It would seem that everyone would be aware of that, but in practice we have been encountering paradoxical situations. On the one hand, we constantly hear reasonable appeals to strengthen cooperation among key stakeholders of United Nations peacekeeping: host countries, troop- and police-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. On the other hand, we see increasing attempts to circumvent the agreement of documents in specialized platforms, for example, through decisions of the Security Council and all kinds of forums and conferences outside of the United Nations.

In that context, we cannot overlook the International Forum on Challenges of Peace Operations, held in Sweden on 28 and 29 November. There, a high-level member of the Secretariat stated that the Special Committee is not supposed to rectify the implementation process of the Declaration of Shared Commitments, which was developed by the Secretariat. We do not even know how to react to those words. As we know very well, in the most recent annual report (A/72/19) of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was approved by the General Assembly, it clearly states in paragraph 19 of chapter V that the Special Committee is

> "the only United Nations forum mandated to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations."

And there are many such paradoxical situations in the efforts to reform the peace and security pillar. For example, we all agree that the mandates of the United Nations missions must be clear, focused and implementable; yet some of those Security Council members who agree that peace, security, development and human rights are closely linked are calling for the broadening of mission mandates and requesting unusual peacekeeping objectives.

Another example is provided by the attempts we have seen to equate the protection of civilians with human rights in United Nations documentation. Those who advocate for that approach fail to acknowledge that the protection of civilians falls under Chapter VII of the Charter, and implies the use of force. Needless to say, their actual intention is to obtain another way to exert political leverage by using the authority of the United Nations and Chapter VII, which is unacceptable. We have already seen attempts to use Chapter VII with regard to human rights at the United Nations Mission in Haiti. The result of that was division within the Council, where we always used to h consensus.

Lastly, Member States agree that strengthening the safety of peacekeepers is a top priority. However, some delegations have started advocating for robust mission mandates. We do not understand how robust mission mandates can improve the safety of the Blue Helmets, or how they can be reconciled with the primacy of the political settlement of conflicts. In that context, we also cannot overlook the mention in this meeting's concept note (S/2018/1064, annex) of so-called peace enforcement operations. The United Nations cannot afford to get dragged into such scenarios. The greatest contradiction here is that everyone agrees with the priority to pursue the political settlement of conflicts and that the United Nations missions must help the host country to create the conditions for that goal.

However, what we are hearing in fact are proposals to replace the responsibility of States with United Nations mandates. That is the reason why the Russian Federation did not believe that it was in a position to fully endorse the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and why we insist that it be discussed in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

The dialogue among Member States with regard to the reforms needed in peacekeeping operations is not over, but it is already clear that the current challenges to peace and security require a collective approach. It is important to strengthen United Nations cooperation with regional organizations based onChapter VIII of the Charter and to use their comparative advantages. It is also important for the priority of regional organizations to be to strive for the peaceful, political and diplomatic resolution of conflicts. We note with satisfaction that African countries are actively taking upon themselves initiatives to address problems on their continent. The leadership of the African Union can rightly be proud of that, although it still has a lot of work to carry out. We understand the desire of our African partners to independently and effectively confront the new challenges and, first and foremost, terrorism. A very good example of that is the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which is very active in combating the Al-Shabaab terrorist group.

The situation remains worrisome in the Sahel, where terrorists and radical groups are attempting to extend their influence, and organized crime is flourishing owing to the power vacuum in vast swathes of the territory. The threat to security and stability in that part of Africa has reached an unprecedented level. We welcome the initiative of the Group of Five for the Sahel to create a joint force to combat terrorism and organized crime. That is an important factor in ensuring stability.

Russia has extended assistance of various kinds to our African partners. African peacekeepers can receive training at the Russian centres in Domodedovo and Naro-Fominsk and at the International Mine-action Centre of the Russian Ministry of Defence in Nakhabino. In 2017 Russian instructors in the Sudan and in the Central African Republic trained 200 local military personnel at each location. By the end of the year in the Central African Republic, we will have trained 2,000 people. We provide $2 million in financial assistance to the African Union Peace Fund, which is used for the civilian component of AMISOM and for the mediation activities of the Committee of Elders and the High Representatives for Somalia and Mali.

Furthermore, Russia provides financing for humanitarian assistance and development strategies and for the fight against terrorism in the Sahel countries. At the same time, we understand the level of need with respect to funding African peacekeeping. We therefore believe that it is justified to have a discussion about increasing the predictability, reliability and flexibility of funding, and we stand ready to engage in further dialogue with our African friends. At the same time, we count on the fact that the text will not include any non-consensual elements on peacekeeping, in particular the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, which would prevent us from supporting that important initiative.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I wish to welcome you back to New York. I join other speakers in saying how welcome it is to have representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) also with us today.

Yesterday, the Council discussed the complex challenges of post-conflict reconstruction, and President Ouattara reminded us of the immense human and economic costs that civil war has imposed on his country and the steps that Côte d'Ivoire has taken to sustain peace and promote economic development (see S/PV.8413). With the cost of conflict so clear, if we are to prevent the worst atrocities and injustices, in accordance with the aspirations of the Charter of the United Nations, it is crucial that we learn the lessons on what it takes to resolve conflict and sustain peace in the long term.

Today, I should like to focus on the complementary roles that States, subregional and regional organizations and the United Nations can and should play in the prevention and resolution of conflict. In that connection I should like to make three specific points.

First, as other speakers have noted, the role of States is paramount. Member States bear the primary responsibility for protecting their inhabitants and for refraining from acts of aggression. But that also means refraining from persecuting their own people. The best and most durable solutions are home-grown and inclusive. But building resilient societies is not an easy task. By addressing the structural drivers of

fragility and ensuring that people's legitimate demands are met, including for justice, security and economic opportunities, we can significantly reduce the risk of conflict. That is why democracy and human rights have a very important role to play in stability but also in prosperity, and there is some very good evidence freely available that explains the link between democracy and human rights and prosperity and thriving societies.

Strong national capacities for conflict prevention are also essential, and it is important that multilateral organizations be willing and equipped to support such national efforts. For that reason, the United Kingdom supports the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-Department of Political Affairs Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention.

The deployment of United Nations peace and development advisers has assisted Member States in generating the analyses that allow for early identification of conflict risks and the ability to devise de-escalation strategies. One such risk-identification system is now operational in Cameroon, where it tracks emerging conflict trends and risks in a situation that is of increasing concern for international peace and security.

Secondly, regional organizations often have a considerable comparative advantage over more distant international institutions, including at times the United Nations. Few regional organizations have been as active on conflict prevention and resolution as the African Union, a welcome development of the past two decades. In the Lake Chad basin, the Central African Republic, the Comoros and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the AU has often been in the driving seat.

In countries such as those in the Sahel region, where a range of cross-border issues form fertile ground for conflict, the work of ECOWAS has been crucial. When it comes to sustainable and inclusive economic development, regional cooperation can ensure that limited resources are deployed effectively and that economic isolation does not persist and become another cause of conflict. In the Horn of Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development supports countries in their efforts to achieve better economic integration.

With regard to support for conflict prevention and mediation, regional actors have a unique advantage owing to their understanding of the local context and conflict dynamics. In Guinea-Bissau, for example, successful ECOWAS mediation delegations include senior officials from Equatorial Guinea and Senegal. With regard to peace-support operations, regional groups play a crucial role, as we saw in the Gambia in 2017. Quick mobilization by ECOWAS succeeded in restoring stability to that country.

The United Kingdom is committed to ensuring that regional entities are sufficiently resourced, so that they can fulfil critical functions alongside the United Nations, specifically on the financing of African Union peace-support operations. That is why the United Kingdom supports the principle of providing United Nations assessed contributions up to a ceiling of 75 per cent to AU-led peace-support operations authorized by the Council. We continue to work constructively with our partners to ensure that the necessary conditions are fulfilled, particularly with regard to human rights compliance, so that that can become a reality.

Thirdly, I would like to emphasize that coordinated efforts between the United Nations, regional organizations and Member States, based on comparative advantages, increase the effectiveness of all our efforts to prevent conflict and sustain long-term peace.

The Charter of the United Nations underscores the important role played by regional organizations in the pacific settlement of disputes, and the Secretary-General was absolutely right to point to the farsightedness of the Charter's framers in that respect. It is a positive sign to see today the broad commitment of the Council to strengthening its work with the AU and others. It occurs to me that broader support in this forum for the important roles of NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe might have provided for more effective responses to the challenges faced in Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

Where national and regional efforts fail, the Council has a responsibility, as the only legally competent body, to surpass the State monopoly on military intervention and to act to restore international peace and security. That is a last-resort step that we can better avoid by mobilizing all the tools at our collective disposal for early peacebuilding and prevention so as to avoid escalation.

Mr. Amde (Ethiopia): Let me begin by once again thanking Côte d'Ivoire for having organized this important open debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional

organizations in maintaining international peace and security. We are glad to see you, Mr. Minister, presiding over this important debate. We thank Secretary-General António Guterres and also thank the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, Mr. Kassi Brou, for their briefings on the theme of our debate. We take this opportunity to express our profound appreciation to both of them for their leadership and their commitment to elevating the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union to new heights.

The timing of this debate could not be more opportune, as discussions are ongoing on a draft resolution proposed by the African members of the Council on the financing of an African Union (AU) peace-support operation, which has been an important issue in the United Nations-African Union partnership. We hope our debate today will build the necessary momentum for the adoption of the proposed draft resolution, which is vital in helping the partnership move from commitments to concrete action. The need to ensure the predictability, flexibility and sustainability of financing for AU peace support operations has long been recognized, and we believe that it is the perfect time for the Council to take decisive step forward.

The AU has demonstrated real commitment to sharing the burden by mobilizing resources from within the continent. With the revitalization of the AU Peace Fund, the AU has been able to mobilize around $80 million, as stated earlier by the Chairperson of the AU, with the objective of endowing the Peace Fund with $400 million by the year 2021. That is remarkable progress that needs to be acknowledged and supported by the Council. Yesterday we were very pleased to have an opportunity to informally interact with the AU High Representative for the Peace Fund, Mr. Donald Kaberuka, who clarified some of the issues with regard to how the Peace Fund works.

We also understand that there are questions with regard to the AU's ability and commitment when it comes to meeting United Nations standards in terms of accountability and compliance issues. AU peace support operations are fledgling, and they cannot be expected to be perfect in a short span of time. United Nations peacekeeping has 70 years of experience and we are still discussing reforms to make it fit for purpose. Nevertheless, the AU has shown clear determination to fulfil the conditions set out by the Council in the relevant resolutions, including through the adoption of the landmark policy documents on the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse and conduct and discipline for AU peace support operations. Cooperation between the United Nations and the AU in those areas is incredibly important, and we hope the joint declaration to be signed by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson today will help facilitate that continuous cooperation.

The financing issue is but one aspect of the United Nations-AU strategic partnership. The fact that we have not been able to make progress in discussions on that issue means that we could not explore the full range of possibilities for cooperation between the two organizations on possible responses to the conflict cycle — from prevention and mediation and to peacekeeping and peacebuilding — in line with their Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Therefore, with the possible adoption of the proposed draft resolution on the financing issue, we hope we will be able to move forward.

There is a need to continue enhancing strategic dialogue, partnerships, a more regular exchange of views, analyses and information at the working level to build capacities in relation to preventive diplomacy tools. There is also a need to invigorate and engage potential and existing capacities and capabilities, particularly through United Nations regional political offices. Furthermore, more needs to be done to ensure the coherence and integration of their early-warning, conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy efforts, inter alia through mediation and the Secretary-General's good offices as appropriate.

In that context, we are encouraged by the progress made in terms of closer collaboration, joint field visits by senior officials, more regular exchanges of information, deeper consultations, increasingly coordinated action and greater collaboration between the Secretariat and the Commission. We appreciate the joint briefings of the Special Representatives and Envoys of the two organizations to the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. It is vital that the two Councils also take concrete steps in line with the understanding reached at their twelfth annual consultation to consider joint visits to conflict situations in Africa. A discussion on the modalities should be initiated without delay to facilitate its implementation.

Finally, during the past two years of our membership of the Council, we have exerted every possible effort to promote enhanced cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and the AU in general, as well as between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in particular, including in our capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. As we hand over the baton to South Africa next month, we have every confidence that they will do everything possible — together with Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea and all other members of the Council — to continue advocating for enhanced partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, which is essential for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa.

Mr. Llorentty Solíz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to join others in welcoming you and your delegation, Mr. President, and I thank you for convening this very important debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat; and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, for their briefings.

Bolivia recognizes the centrality and leadership of regional and subregional organizations in addressing the problems and conflicts faced by their respective regions. We acknowledge the fundamental role they play to encourage and strengthen political stability, economic growth and social and cultural development within the framework of respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all the States that form their respective regions.

Therefore, the development of synergies between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations — as well as the promotion of consultations for coordination and cooperation, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations — are useful and beneficial, as they can make a substantial contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. Similarly, exhaustive analysis of, and debate on, conflicts and their unique features are indispensable for the effective implementation of mediation, prevention and reconciliation efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes, in line with the application of the provisions enshrined in Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter. The role of regional and subregional organizations is therefore essential to bolster those endeavours.

It is also necessary to underscore the responsibility of the international community in general to ensure that this relationship is effective. That would facilitate a common understanding of the root causes of conflicts, which can be resolved only through multilateralism and its mechanisms. It is for that reason that we reiterate the need to deepen the integration of peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities, as well as strengthen and improve dialogue and mechanisms for cooperation and coordination.

With regard to Africa, we believe such objectives can be achieved within the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, through joint strategies linked to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, as well as by prioritizing the leadership and active participation of women and youth in order to promote the nexus between peace, security and development. Furthermore, we welcome the signing of the African Union-United Nations joint framework for the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That will promote a systematic and predictable strategic partnership based on the principles of mutual respect and comparative advantages.

In terms of cooperation and coordination mechanisms, a notable example is the deployment of joint operations. Such efforts constitute a key instrument in the constant search for the consolidation of peace and security, in addition to being a useful tool in the face of obstacles and threats such as terrorism and humanitarian crises. Bolivia supports those initiatives, including the deployment and full operationalization of the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force, which, together with the African Union Mission in Somalia and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, are the most fruitful examples of the United Nations and the African Union's commitment to their partnership.

We also commend the initiatives spearheaded by subregional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States, which, within the framework of preventive diplomacy, made it possible to prevent conflict in the Republic of the Gambia, as well as the processes under way as part of the Nouakchott process. Bolivia once again expresses its full support

for the regional and subregional architecture for conflict resolution in Africa. It is vital that we take on board the African vision and its recommendations.

We also underscore the growing strategic partnership between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and their commitment to developing a structured and equal relationship by strengthening their partnership through mutual support and ongoing technical support, both in terms of political issues and peacekeeping operations, as continues to be demonstrated by the joint visits. That is why we must continue to seek various modalities of assistance and support for African Union peace-support operations, in accordance with resolution 2320 (2016). In that regard, Bolivia supports the requests made by the African Union for a predictable and flexible budget and economic support for peace and security operations.

To conclude, we underscore the importance for strategic entities and partners to uphold all their commitments, with a view to continuing to forge ahead along the path of stabilization, peace, security and development, leaving no one behind.

Mr. Ma Zhaoxu (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): At the outset, I would like to welcome Your Excellency, the Foreign Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, to this Chamber to preside over this open debate. Our thanks also go to Secretary-General Guterres, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Economic Community of West African States Commission, for their briefings.

As we look around the world today, we see complexities that are in a state of flux. We are confronted with a range of challenges that are intertwined, many of which have spilled beyond the borders of a given country, or for that matter, a given region. Regional countries and the international community must work together to address them. In recent years, the United Nations has steadily strengthened its cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, which has significantly contributed to the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacebuilding and the maintenance of regional and global stability.

Meanwhile, non-traditional security threats and risks, such as terrorism and transnational organized crime, are on the rise. Some countries and regional and subregional organizations are faced with inadequate security and governance capabilities, as well as an acute lack of funding. Much remains to be done on their long journey towards lasting peace and development. In the context of those new circumstances, threats and challenges, how are we to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, for better conflict prevention and resolution and more effective post-conflict reconstruction? The answer lies in a range of imperatives. Please allow me to elaborate.

First, we must continue to strengthen multilateralism and hold fast to the notions of mutually beneficial cooperation and common development. The United Nations is an emblem of multilateralism. Strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is an important part of supporting multilateralism. All parties should actively encourage regional countries to subscribe to the philosophy that cooperation should yield win-win results, both bilaterally and multilaterally — that is, one party must consider another's interests when pursuing one's own interests and promote common development while seeking one's own development. They should uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security; encourage all efforts to find solutions through dialogue, good offices, mediation and other peaceful means; and enhance mutual understanding and trust.

Secondly, we must fully leverage the unique role of regional and subregional organizations, as well as regional countries, in tackling topical issues concerning a given region. Regional and subregional organizations and regional countries have the benefit of more intimate knowledge of the history, culture and realities of their own region. They are uniquely positioned to address regional topical issues, and their role is irreplaceable. The international community would be well advised to fully respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries concerned and support the role of regional and subregional organizations and regional countries in leading mediation efforts. There is ample proof of the effectiveness of that approach. Just recently, thanks to collaboration among the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and regional countries, the South Sudanese parties signed a new revitalized peace agreement and significant progress was achieved in the relations of the countries of the Horn of Africa. That is a case in point.

Thirdly, we must fully leverage the United Nations advantages to lend more support to regional and subregional organizations. The United Nations should make better use of the mechanisms, resources and capabilities at its disposal to give regional and subregional organizations more assistance for training, institutional development, logistical support and funding. Coordination should be strengthened to enable complementarity of comparative advantages, while avoiding overlap, and to bring the best out of each other, rather than inhibit each other. A true synergy will emerge from such an approach.

Recent years have seen remarkable progress in the cooperation between the United Nations, on the one hand, and the African Union and subregional organizations in Africa, on the other, which has culminated in the successful resolution of issues concerning Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The peacekeeping mechanisms of the United Nations in the African region have played an important and irreplaceable role in some hotspots, including Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

In 2017, the United Nations and the African Union signed the Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, under which there has been an expansion of the areas of cooperation between the two organizations as well as improved levels of cooperation. That sets an example for cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It is also the best exercise in implementing the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and harnessing the advantages of regional organizations.

China supports the strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and subregional organizations in Africa and has made active efforts to that end. During China's presidency of the Council in November, China convened two open debates — one on strengthening multilateralism (see S/PV.8395) and the other on strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa (see S/PV.8407) — to promote greater support from the United Nations and the international community at large for the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations.

As the second-largest contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping budget, I would like to underscore once again, in no uncertain terms, that China unequivocally supports the use of United Nations peacekeeping contributions to provide stable, predictable and sustainable funding for AU peace operations and supports the adoption of a draft resolution by the Council to that end. We are keen for the Council to reach consensus promptly. China will continue to actively support the United Nations cooperation with the AU and other regional and subregional organizations through a combination of channels, including direct donations and the China-United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate that as a staunch and consistent supporter of multilateralism. China stands ready to work with the rest of the international community to help foster closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, with a view to reinforcing and enhancing the international collective security mechanism and to maintaining international peace and stability. Together we shall build a community of a shared future for humankind by charting the way towards a more secure and better future.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): Let me start by welcoming you, Mr. President, in the Chamber and commend the Ivorian delegation for holding another very active debate on cooperation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. My delegation expresses its appreciation to Secretary-General Guterres, Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat and the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, for their substantive statements.

The theme of today's open debate is very timely. The Charter of the United Nations states that the responsibility for peace and security in the world rests with the United Nations. We observe, unfortunately, that contradictions are increasing day by day, thereby threatening the stability and security of States and their people. Unresolved disputes usually become the cause of armed conflicts and undermine international peace and security. Given that conflicts of whatever nature threaten domestic, regional and global security, the role of States, regional organizations and the United Nations in conflict resolution is essential. As one of the most representative and authoritative international organizations in the world, the United Nations has to play a central role in this sphere.

But we should not be limited to resolution, we need to elaborate more on conflict prevention. That will require strengthening the United Nations system as a whole. Investments in sustaining peace should begin early to avoid conflict and ensure early action rather than early warnings. Without that, stability can be uncertain, fragile and vulnerable to new shocks. We could not agree more with the Secretary-General's observation that,

> "Instead of responding to crises, we need to invest far more in prevention. Prevention works, saves lives and is cost-effective."

In that regard, we commend the determined efforts of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations and adapt it to the new realities, but the United Nations cannot succeed in that endeavour alone. It will require commitments by Member States and strong partnerships with regional and subregional organizations.

The prevention of conflict remains a primary responsibility of States. It includes the protection of civilians and respecting and ensuring the human rights of all individuals within their territory. Since gaining its independence, 27 years ago, Kazakhstan has been at the forefront of preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and confidence-building measures, which are the core principles of our foreign policy. This is not a political declaration, but rather the working methods of my country. We have a mechanism in place that demonstrates how we have realized those principles in reality. An outstanding example is the initiative of President Nazarbayev to create the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, which has been successfully functioning in the Central Asia region for the past 10 years. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel — both regional organizations — have been productively operating in Africa on a preventive agenda for a number of years, a model that could be replicated in conflict areas globally.

Regional organizations are particularly important actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as indicated in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Kazakhstan founded the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) as an intergovernmental forum to promote peace, security and stability in Asia. In that context, I would like to recall the recent initiative of my President to establish a collective security organization in Asia. CICA could be the foundation for the future organization for security and cooperation in Asia. In cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), such an organization could contribute to the creation of a security zone throughout the Eurasian subcontinent. Regional and subregional organizations such as OSCE, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization have accumulated significant experience in conflict prevention and resolution. Peace, security and development are essential components of conflict prevention. Security is complemented by sustainable development, and vice versa. We must therefore increase cooperation and coordination between the security and development pillars of the United Nations at Headquarters and in the field to achieve effective results on the ground.

We are grateful to the Ivorian delegation for inviting the Chairperson of the AU and President of ECOWAS as briefers today. My delegation is in full agreement with both of them that security and development synergy is key to alleviating and resolving conflicts.

It is in that vein that during our presidency, in January, the Security Council adopted presidential statement S/PRST/2018/1, which was submitted by Kazakhstan and which, for the first time, highlighted the importance of conflict prevention and sustaining peace in a regional perspective and underscored the need to utilize measures to rebuild trust and achieve a world free of violent conflicts by the United Nations centenary, in 2045. It includes in particular preventive diplomacy tools and the strengthening of strategic cooperation and coordination among the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, an innovative three-pronged strategy. That document also puts emphasis on sharing best practices and formulating forward-looking recommendations and strategies in the light of the increasingly transnational nature of the causes, consequences and contributing factors of conflict, including terrorism, armed group activities, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime and illicit trafficking in conventional weapons.

We therefore need to continue to support the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements, or by regional agencies, and continue

strengthening strategic dialogue, partnerships, a more regular exchange of views, analyses and information at the working level to build national and regional capacities in relation to the preventive diplomacy tools.

We should ensure stronger and closer cooperation by the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations, because it is regional and subregional organizations that have the knowledge and will to deal with the conflicts in the areas concerned. In that regard, we firmly support the growing United Nations-African Union partnership and look forward to enhancing that relationship in peacekeeping and peacebuilding spheres as well.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan believes that a more holistic approach should be taken to further improve our action in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. With that in view, Kazakhstan will continue to promote the comprehensive threefold strategy I mentioned earlier, which includes strengthening the security-development nexus, a regional approach and coordinated efforts by United Nations agencies and structures.

Ms. Wronecka (Poland) (*spoke in French*): We are honoured by your presence among us today, Mr. President, and we commend Côte d'Ivoire for this initiative. We welcome this important debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

(*spoke in English*)

I would also like to thank Secretary-General António Guterres, Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat and President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission Jean-Claude Brou for their very informative briefings.

The cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is based on complementary advantages. Such cooperation ensures local ownership and a sense of responsibility. It also provides all stakeholders with inclusive participation. All those elements remain crucial for the success of efforts aimed at conflict prevention and resolution.

Let me focus on three points that Poland finds particularly vital in that regard: closer cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations; the strategic partnership between the European Union and African Union; and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as an example of a positive role played by a regional organization in conflict prevention.

First, with regard to closer cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations, the enhanced partnership in the area of peace and security between the United Nations and the African Union is a prerequisite for long-term effective solutions to the security challenges in Africa. There is no doubt that, since the United Nations and the African Union signed the Joint Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in 2017, tremendous progress has been made in that regard. I would like to commend all stakeholders that have been engaging in strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations. A tangible example of subregional ownership and responsibility is ECOWAS. Its involvement in preventive diplomacy, and in peace and security in general, needs to be highlighted.

Furthermore, when discussing future arrangements, we should approach the challenges in a holistic way. The key areas we should be focusing on when drafting the framework for the next phase of the United Nations and African Union cooperation are, inter alia, compliance, reporting, accountability and sustainability. The roles and responsibilities should be assigned based on the complementarities of both organizations in the peace process.

Poland believes that continued United Nations support to the African Union in its efforts to equip itself with capabilities, tools and the means necessary for effective action is critical. It is also of the utmost importance in enabling both organizations to face new threats and address complex sources of instability in Africa. We consider regular interaction between this Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council as an essential instrument in deepening the partnership.

Secondly, with regard to the strategic partnership between the European Union and African Union, the framework of that cooperation was defined in the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy. One of the key areas of the cooperation highlighted in the Strategy is European Union support to the African Union in conflict prevention and political solutions, including through substantial financial support. In that context, by focusing on enhanced performance, the European Union helps strengthen the efficiency of efforts in cooperation on training and capacity-building.

Thirdly, the OSCE is an example of a positive role played by a regional organization in conflict prevention. We cannot omit the positive role played in particular by its field operations. Such activities prove that conflict prevention is more cost efficient than conflict management. It is that guiding principle held by the OSCE that put early warning and early action at the forefront of its endeavours by providing dialogue facilitation and helping in mediation processes. Effective interaction facilitated by the OSCE enables a reaction at various stages of the crisis cycle and, in that sense, remains an effective conflict-prevention tool. We see growing space for strengthening OSCE cooperation with the United Nations. It is urgently needed in places such as the conflict-affected parts of Ukraine. Such cooperation should be guided by good practices and lessons learned, which both the OSCE and the United Nations could offer.

In conclusion, let me emphasize the great added value of the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. On one hand, it provides us with invaluable regional perspective and expertise to address regional challenges, and, on the other, it enables the United Nations to share the best practices and standards in implementing relevant strategies and frameworks. Let me reiterate Poland's full support for strengthening closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Let me assure the Council that we stand ready to continue engaging with our partners in regional organizations to work together in the field of conflict prevention and resolution.

Mr. Cohen (United States of America): I thank you, Sir, for convening and presiding over today's important debate. I also thank the Secretary-General and our briefers from the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The United States remains committed to working with regional organizations to address priority issues of peace and security. Regional organizations can also be force multipliers for the United Nations in meeting the challenges we all face. Nonetheless, the Security Council must always retain its autonomous decision-making authority. We should ensure that new opportunities for cooperation address real and critical political, security, development, human rights and humanitarian challenges. There is much that regional organizations, such as the African Union, can do to resolve ongoing conflicts and crises, independent of our discussions on new initiatives or new financing mechanisms. Regional organizations bring critical expertise to negotiations, while identifying appropriate options and solutions and mobilizing resources for response. Many times, the only resource required for regional and subregional organizations to play a stronger role is political will and an invitation.

We have been pleased to see the Organization of American States (OAS) engage on Nicaragua and Venezuela, particularly the adoption of resolutions at the OAS condemning human rights violations against the people of Nicaragua and encouraging that steps be taken to identify the individuals responsible and demand that para-police groups be disbanded. The OAS established a working group in August, which is the beginning, we hope, of a stronger regional effort to improve the lives of Nicaraguan citizens. We also welcomed the June OAS resolution condemning the 20 May sham elections in Venezuela, which proposes concrete actions to press the regime and highlights the worsening humanitarian crisis. But those steps should be the beginning, not the end, of a stronger regional effort to improve the lives of the citizens of the region.

Similarly, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been engaged on Burma and has expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Rakhine state and its support for the full implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed among Myanmar, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine state. The ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre is helping address concerns in Rakhine state. In the past year, the Centre facilitated the provision of relief items to vulnerable Burmese citizens and deployed emergency response and assessment team personnel to assist in the work of Burma's relief and resettlement department. That, again, should be the beginning, not the end, of a stronger regional effort.

In Africa, the United Nations and the African Union have worked together to improve local security environments and create space for political processes to take shape. There are many other situations where high-level political engagement by subregional groups has been critical for conflict resolution and prevention throughout the African continent. One example in particular, as mentioned by a number of other speakers, was the role ECOWAS played, in partnership with the AU and the United Nations, in resolving the political

crisis in the Gambia in 2017. It mitigated a situation that could have necessitated a larger and much costlier intervention. When we look at South Sudan, the continued political impasse in Burundi and the volatile political environment ahead of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we see situations where regional and subregional organizations have long been involved in attempting to advance political processes, but where much more work remains to be done to reach satisfactory solutions. Again, the main resources required to contribute to those situations are political will and regional leadership.

A number of Member States today have addressed the draft resolution on the financing of AU peace support operations in their remarks. The United States regrets that we have so far been unable to reach agreement on a consensus text. We continue to believe there is room for agreement on language that goes well beyond the Council's two prior resolutions on the matter, while respecting important concerns, especially related to financing, Council oversight and Council primacy for the maintenance of international peace and security. Any draft resolution must not rush forward on the matter of assessed contributions, acknowledge the AU's unfinished work to meet the benchmarks the Council previously established, affirm the AU's commitment to fund 25 per cent of any peace support operations supported through that framework and apply only to future AU-led operations. Ultimately, the Security Council must maintain oversight and control of any peace support operation conducted using United Nations funds. We urge the penholder to continue to work with us and to show flexibility in finding a way forward that enjoys unanimous support.

In conclusion, the United States welcomes a closer working relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It also welcomes regional and subregional organizations leading the way in crisis resolution and conflict prevention. We need not wait for the establishment of new mechanisms or for the allocation of new funding for that work to intensify. There is plenty of work to be done right now.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): We express our sincere thanks to you, Sir, for presiding over today's important debate. We congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on a successful presidency thus far, and are honoured by your presence.

We thank Secretary-General Guterres, African Union Chairperson Faki Mahamat and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, Mr. Brou, for their briefings.

We align ourselves with the statement to be made later by the observer of the European Union.

Conflict prevention and peacebuilding are at the core of the external action of the European Union, and cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is a key element for prevention and peacebuilding. In that context, I will highlight three points: first, the need to strengthen cooperation; secondly, the need for complementarity; and thirdly, the need to better use the Peacebuilding Commission.

On my first point, enhanced cooperation of subregional and regional organizations with the United Nations is crucial to preventing the outbreak of conflicts. An example of this — and my American colleague just mentioned it as well — is the cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, in preventing the outbreak of conflict in the Gambia last year, when Italy was in this chair during our two-year split-term on the Council.

Further institutionalizing cooperation will strengthen our efforts aimed at prevention. A good example of this is joint risk assessment and joint analysis. In particular, we would welcome joint risk assessment for all root causes of conflict, and this especially includes the adverse effects of climate change and water stress. Various Security Council mandates, together with conclusions of the AU Peace and Security Council and of the Council of the European Union (EU), recognize the link between climate change and conflict. This recognition creates a possibility to work together to address climate-related risks. If relevant regional and international organizations work together better to assess, analyse and address these kind of security risks, we ensure collective thinking for collective action.

My second point concerns complementarity. One of the priorities of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, as he mentioned this morning, is partnerships. Through the signing of the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, some 151 Member States so far have committed to enhancing cooperation between international, regional and subregional organizations.

Partnerships are essential to really improving peacekeeping, and there are several examples of this. One example is the EU-United Nations Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management, and the trilateral cooperation between the AU, the EU and the United Nations in peacekeeping is another prime example of this cooperation and should be further institutionalized.

Joint fact-finding missions should be the rule rather than the exception. An example of this are those with the Security Council, the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee to countries on the Council's agenda. Regional and subregional organizations should enhance partnerships through these joint missions.

Additionally, let me emphasize the need for sustainable funding and streamlined compliance mechanisms for future AU peace support operations. We feel that the time has come for a draft resolution in this context by the Security Council, which will strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, and we commend the leadership of Côte d'Ivoire on this point and on peacekeeping more generally.

As previous reports of the Secretary-General have rightly observed, regional interests and the proximity of neighbours sometimes complicate conflict prevention and efforts aimed at resolving conflicts. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organization should therefore be determined by comparative advantage, complementarity and organizations' willingness to act.

That brings me to my third point — the important role of the Peacebuilding Commission. In the Secretary-General's prevention and sustaining peace agendas, peacebuilding is increasingly important, and the Peacebuilding Commission has to play a central role. The Peacebuilding Commission is a hinge between the United Nations, host Governments and affected countries. It is also a hinge between the United Nations, regional organizations, subregional organizations and civil society. In building sustainable peace, the role of the Peacebuilding Commission is essential and should be enhanced. The Commission should ensure that experiences on the ground are shared here in New York both with the United Nations system and with other countries. Especially in transitional situations, the Peacebuilding Commission can provide subregional and regional organizations with a link to the Security Council, thereby ensuring that peacebuilding is inclusive.

In conclusion, enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is imperative in all phases of the conflict cycle. By better working together, we can do what the Charter calls upon us to do: "to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security".

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs of Ireland, whom I thank for her presence in the Council today.

Ms. Zappone (Ireland): I would like to extend, on behalf of the Irish Government, our deepest sympathies to the American people on the loss of their former President, George H. W. Bush. Ireland has lost a friend.

I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's important debate. Increasingly, it is recognized that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations is crucial to conflict resolution and prevention. Regional organizations have a central interest in promoting peace, given the capacity for conflict to spread across borders.

I am conscious, Mr. President, that you are from a region of Africa that has witnessed some of the most successful cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Your own country, Sir, emerged from conflict after receiving vital support from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations. Indeed, as President Ouattara said in this Chamber yesterday, the Security Council passed over 50 unprecedented and courageous resolutions on Côte d'Ivoire, helping your country to overcome and resolve conflict (see S/PV.8413).

Ireland shares your strong support for multilateralism, Sir, and your President's assessment that peace and stability in one country are largely dependent on the stability of the region. More recently, mediation by ECOWAS in the post-election crisis in the Gambia is a further example of the success that can be achieved when regional efforts are provided with wider international support.

On the island of Ireland, our own locally led peace process has benefited hugely from the sustained, generous and sensitive support of the European Union (EU) — the regional organization of which Ireland is

a member. Indeed, our simple membership in the EU played a key role in putting us on the road to ending violent conflict.

Ireland wishes to acknowledge the recent successes of regional actors in conflict prevention and resolution, such as the African Union's recent advances in developing continental early-warning systems, the Panel of the Wise, Special Envoys, and ad hoc mediation panels. These steps all make a tangible and incremental difference to conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

We believe that regional analysis, cooperation and shared outcomes can facilitate more effective responses to conflict and to building peaceful societies. With this in mind, Ireland has facilitated two workshops bringing together gender advisers from the AU, the EU, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and UN Women, to enhance practical implementation of women and peace and security agenda priorities. We all know that if women are included in peace processes, the agreements they reach are more durable. Ireland's support for the women and peace and security agenda is wide-ranging, including support for the work of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

On peacekeeping, Ireland is aware of the importance of ensuring that our efforts respond to the needs of the situation, that resources match mandates, and that they are reinforced by political will and political support. Irrespective of the environment, how we approach, design and decide on a peacekeeping mission has to be cognizant of local needs.

Secretary-General Guterres's Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its accompanying Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations provide us with the concrete steps that we need to take. The effectiveness of our peacekeeping operations depends not just on their design but on the conduct of those whom we charge to implement them. There is a responsibility on Member States to ensure that the capabilities and capacities that will aid the delivery of effective peacekeeping are provided.

Ireland is playing its part when it comes to effective peacekeeping. We have put at the disposal of United Nations partners a range of courses that will respond to a number of the training needs identified. We will also ensure that Irish peacekeepers operate to the highest standards in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law. Ireland's commitment to the highest possible standards has also led to a whole-of-government approach to the implementation of the United Nations voluntary compact on the elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse. We must ensure that we continue to eradicate such behaviour from every part of our system.

In conclusion, Ireland believes that the most effective pathway to sustainable peace is by supporting inclusive, locally led and nationally owned peacebuilding initiatives. As we seek membership of the Security Council for the term from 2021 to 2022, we will continue to prioritize support for the increased participation of women and young people in all mediation and peacebuilding activities. We also seek to work with local partners to support interventions that will bring about sustainable peace.

The President (*spoke in French*): I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Rwanda.

Mrs. Rugwabiza (Rwanda) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Secretary-General and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States for their briefings.

(*spoke in English*)

I once again congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on its presidency of the Security Council for this month, and I thank you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate, which is of the utmost importance not only to Member States but also to the Security Council.

At the outset, I would like to say that my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, which fully represents the views of African Member States on the topic that we are debating today. I am honoured to make this statement at a time when the African Union is making remarkable progress in the effort to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations. I believe that this debate comes at the right time, as the African

Union seeks the Security Council's endorsement of a predictable cost-sharing framework for the funding of peace-support operations led by Africa and authorized by the Council.

On a number of occasions in this Chamber, members of the Security Council and Member States have called for effective United Nations cooperation with regional bodies, particularly the African Union. We may recall that in November 2016 the Council held a debate on modalities of stronger cooperation on peace and security between the United Nations and the African Union (see S/PV.7816). The Security Council welcomed the efforts of the regional organization to establish a predictable cost-sharing structure for the funding of peace-support operations authorized by the Council and led by Africa. My remarks focus on the progress made by Africa with a view to strengthening its capabilities to streamline its partnership with the United Nations in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and sustaining peace in a predictable and sustainable manner.

Building on previous arrangements, the Chairperson of the African Union and the Secretary-General further demonstrated strong commitment towards strengthening the strategic partnership between the two organizations. That was reinforced by the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which was signed in New York on 19 April 2017 and has been mentioned by many speakers. Accordingly, let me take this opportunity to commend the work done by the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission to follow up on the relevant provisions of resolution 2320 (2016), particularly the consultative process undertaken between March and April 2017. I am delighted to note that the consultative process was conducted in a true spirit of partnership and cooperation. I look forward to the realization of deeper cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on more substantive matters of mutual interest.

Last month, the African Union relaunched its Peace Fund. The Fund entails three core aims: first, mediation and preventive diplomacy activities; secondly, capacity-building; and thirdly, peace-support operations. The Fund will certainly allow the African Union to meet its commitment to finance 25 per cent of its budget for peace operations, while also enabling it to finance mediation and preventive diplomacy activities.

Rwanda believes that, while African Union member States are primarily responsible for financing the Peace Fund, that does not preclude the role of partnership in supporting peace and security activities of the African Union. Strengthening cooperation with partners such as the United Nations in the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations remains highly relevant and imperative. This comes at a time when the current international peace and security architecture is under extreme pressure given the complexity of the peace and security challenges that the world is facing today. Building an effective partnership between the two organizations is therefore strategic for collective security.

My country appeals for an enhanced form of partnership, which must be based on the respective authorities, competencies and capacities of the two organizations. That partnership must observe the principles of burden-sharing, consultative decision-making processes, comparative advantage and division of labour, as well as mutual accountability.

The continent is not seeking handouts or charity but a partnership of collective responsibility in addressing conflicts on the continent. I believe that the co-financing of African Union-led peace-support operations authorized by the Security Council on a case-by-case basis is an opportunity for us all to enhance our partnership in the spirit of the United Nations-African Union partnership framework, based on the principles of mutual respect, shared values and comparative advantage.

In that respect, the African Union has called on the African members of the Security Council to propose and to champion a draft resolution on financing African Union-led peace-support operations that are authorized by the Council. That is in the spirit of building on what has been achieved through resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017).

The draft resolution proposed by the African members of the Security Council has embedded within it important elements that are of mutual concern, such as accountability, compliance of policies related to human rights and cases of sexual exploitation, conduct, discipline and coordination.

Africa is ready to play its part. Indeed, it is already doing so in many ways. Apart from the significant reforms and Peace Fund governance arrangements in place, the continent currently hosts the largest

number of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and the majority of peacekeeping personnel are from Africa. With more sustained and predictable financing for African Union-led peace-support operations, we can significantly improve our capacity to prevent, respond to and manage crisis situations in a timely and efficient manner.

The crux is that there is clearly agreement on the urgency of improving the international peace and security architecture to address today's security challenges and to reach a consensus solution to predictable and sustainable financing for African Union-led peace-support operations authorized by the Security Council. I believe that the problem lies in our different understanding of the sense of urgency and of the best way to exercise our collective responsibility to prevent and respond to conflicts. Rwanda believes that a well-funded and predictable African Peace and Security Architecture is not only an African priority; it is our collective priority for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Senegal.

Mr. Niang (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I shall read out am abridged version of my statement. The full version will be distributed afterward.

I would like to express Senegal's support to the African members of the Security Council in trying to find solutions for the predictable funding of the African Union-led operations authorized through the Council's contributions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on the topics chosen for today and yesterday (see S/PV.8413), which are of great importance for the continent and the world. We also highly appreciate the efforts made by the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in trying to find solutions to conflicts. This is a crucial issue insofar as, when a State is threatened in its foundations by the imminent outbreak of conflict, or is already in the grip of conflict, only assistance from other States and regional and international organizations can prove to be life-saving. Moreover, the upsurge in conflicts in recent years makes it even more imperative to reflect on the contribution of those entities to conflict resolution and prevention.

A 2018 report published by the United Nations Development Programme emphasized that, after a long period of calm, violent conflicts are now on the rise, with real risks of spreading beyond national borders. For example, of the 47 conflicts recorded in 2016, 18 have become international in nature. Those conflicts lead to major population movements, and at the same time asymmetrical threats such as terrorist attacks have become frequent. Therefore, the involvement of all actors is necessary — Member States, regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations — in order to find together, in the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the most appropriate responses to political and security challenges.

The responsibility for ensuring peace, security and sustainable socioeconomic development lies first and foremost with States — through sound political governance, transparent democratic rules and respect for human rights. Indeed, most conflicts have their roots in poverty, exclusion, social inequalities, poor governance, human rights violations, monopolization of political power, and impunity — in summary, inappropriate management and sharing of power and resources. Hence it is clear the role that must fall to leaders to take the necessary measures to ensure inclusion and social cohesion.

As Secretary-General António Guterres mentioned this morning, no country, particularly in Africa, can address the many challenges and threats to stability alone — terrorism, violent extremism, maritime piracy and so on. Consequently, partnerships are essential for pooling efforts and means of action in crisis prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. In that respect, it would be wise, as a matter of priority, to focus on prevention in order to minimize the possible costs, which are often more expensive than those associated with conflict resolution and reconstruction. That gives full meaning to the statement of the Secretary-General that prevention is not just a priority, it is the priority.

With regard to cooperation between the United Nations and the Africa, it is important, as recalled by Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, to contribute to the implementation of the African Union's initiative of Silencing the Guns by 2020, its Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The relationship with the United Nations, which has a unique experience in this area, should also work to strengthen African capacities in early warning and response with a more dynamic role for the African Union's Peace and

Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System and the Panel of the Wise, which will make prevention the cornerstone of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

Along the same lines, we welcome the key role played by subregional organizations. For example, ECOWAS is one of the subregional structures most proactive in prevention and conflict resolution, having adopted various strategic instruments that have equipped it with effective early-warning mechanisms that authorize the taking of life-saving preventive action. Recent history gives us successful examples, whether in the Gambia, where the African Union, the United Nations and ECOWAS worked in close collaboration to defuse a potentially dangerous crisis in the region, or elsewhere where other subregional organizations have acted in other countries.

My delegation welcomes the relevance of the Secretary-General's reform, in particular with regard to the peace and security pillar, including peacekeeping operations. We think that the Action for Peacekeeping initiative and its Declaration of Shared Commitments should lead to a revitalization of efforts aimed at inclusiveness and mission performance by prioritizing conflict-prevention mechanisms through mediation and giving priority to early warning at the international and regional levels. In launching that initiative, the Secretary-General called on Member States to work resolutely to make those operations more effective and efficient in the service of international peace and security by basing them on a well-articulated political strategy with targeted, clear, realistic and achievable mandates.

Whether in subregional or regional contexts, Senegal will continue its work in concert with other actors, such as the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS, which have demonstrated their effectiveness, so as to make prevention and mediation priorities in ensuring lasting peace, particularly in Africa. As part of that preventive approach, which requires in-depth reflection for a better understanding of crises in Africa, President Sall has also invested his efforts in establishing the Dakar International Forum, which was recently held in Senegal. My country stands ready to share its unique experience in peacekeeping, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, and in particular by way of its dedicated training centre, established along the lines of United Nations standards.

In conclusion, the success of our efforts requires a renewed joint commitment to multilateralism as an essential mechanism for preserving international peace and security and promoting economic and social progress. In keeping with the guidelines and principles of its foreign policy, Senegal reaffirms its constant commitment to work for international peace and security, particularly in Africa.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Bessho (Japan): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important open debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States for their insightful briefings. The global security landscape has changed significantly since the end of the Cold War. Terrorism, transnational organized crime, natural disasters, public health emergencies and cybercrime demonstrate how threats to international security have become highly complex. To tackle today's challenges, multi-layered cooperation has become ever more indispensable.

Twenty-five years ago, the difficulties that Africa faced in the new international political climate were profound. Japan saw that Africa wanted to change its own narrative and we wished to be a part of that endeavour. By looking at how Southeast Asian countries have grown steadily with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, we recognized the value of regional and sub-regional organizations. We wanted to work together with multilateral partners with expertise and relevant knowledge of local dynamics to join together to promote Africa's peace, stability and development in an open and inclusive process. That is how the Tokyo International Conference on African Development began in 1993, trusting in the power of multi-layered cooperation with States, regional and subregional organizations, and the United Nations. The seventh such conference will be held in Yokohama in August 2019.

As we approach the end of 2018, both the United Nations and the AU have made progress in their institutional reform. We especially commend the AU for its efforts to revitalize the AU Peace Fund in recent years. In 1993, Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), said on the occasion of the OAU's thirtieth anniversary, "Africa

must cultivate the virtues of self-reliance, for there is no alternative". Japan respects that spirit of ownership. It is no coincidence that the AU Peace Fund and the Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development were born in the same year — 1993.

As means of both conflict resolution and conflict prevention, the United Nations peacekeeping operations and the AU peace-support operations are complementary in responding to today's evolving peace and security challenges. With that perspective in mind, Japan is encouraged that the Security Council is considering practical steps to establish a mechanism through which AU-led peace-support operations could be partly financed through United Nations assessed contributions, as stated in resolution 2378 (2017). In order to maximize the effect of that mechanism, Japan believes the Council's discussions should seek operational improvements and accountability for both the United Nations peacekeeping operations and the AU peace-support operations, including through streamlining their mandates so as to allow each to focus on the tasks that it is best equipped to perform. Given the increased responsibilities and heightened security threats that many missions face, it is in our best interest to ensure that peace operations are optimized for operational efficiency.

Of course, the best and most efficient way to resolve conflicts is to prevent conflicts, and Japan hopes to see conflict prevention become paramount in the work of the United Nations, as well as in the work of regional and subregional organizations. In that respect, subregional organizations — in particular the Economic Community of West African States — have proven to be highly effective at prevention. By utilizing the capacities that various organizations bring to the table, we can maximize the effectiveness of our endeavours in both peace operations and development.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Colombia.

Mr. Fernández de Soto Valderrama (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on assuming the presidency of the Security Council. I would also like to highlight the importance of the holding of this open debate for my country and region. We welcome all efforts aimed at improving communication between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as posited by the Security Council in resolution 1631 (2005).

History reminds us, day after day, that the solidity of the global institutions that ensure the effective maintenance of international peace and security emanates from the commitment of all States to multilateralism. Colombia has always placed its trust in the search for diplomatic and peaceful multilateral solutions. That constant is reflected in our foreign policy, which led to our becoming a founding member of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States (OAS).

It is undeniable that the characteristics and dynamics of the threats to international peace and security that we face today have changed. Currently, most conflicts are of a domestic nature and require States to respond to attacks on democratic structures and principles, and they often trigger various kinds of humanitarian crises. That all has repercussions on entire regions, extending beyond the country affected, and requiring various forms of global cooperation. Reality has shown us without a doubt that such threats cannot be addressed unilaterally — whether they involve mass migration resulting from the breakdown of the democratic system, the shortage of medicines or food in the community of the affected country; or the challenges of facing effectively, and from a perspective of shared responsibility, phenomena such as the global problem of illicit drugs and transnational crimes, which know no borders or profit from weakened borders; or when the institutional order of a country breaks down, which leads to disregard for constitutional and legal principles to the detriment of the population and the commission of clear and serious violations of the human rights that are recognized by international instruments.

The conclusion is clear. It is essential to strengthen the multilateral system and to implement all established or defined mechanisms so that multilateralism can fulfil the purposes of its existence. In that sense, in our region the Organization of American States has legal, significant tools for building consensus and defining strategies that provide access to States and in-depth knowledge of the specific conditions of situations on the ground, making that regional organization a decisive interlocutor in the success of the objectives proposed by the United Nations to prevent the escalation of conflicts and restore democratic order.

Regional and subregional organizations, owing to their proximity, knowledge and shared historical and cultural links, are called on to play a more relevant role in prevention and peacebuilding activities, some

of which we have witnessed in initiatives such as the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti or our regional body's Electoral Observation Mission, among others. In that context, the African Union is another tangible example. On many occasions, as has been pointed out here, the African Union, thanks to its geographical proximity and direct knowledge, has responded in times of crisis and has carried out actions that have subsequently garnered consensus within the international community. The added value of the involvement of regional organizations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts should not be seen as a substitute for national ownership, which is a sine qua non requirement for the achievement of positive and effective results in such situations.

I would like to conclude by referring to the remarks of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, made in the context of the seventy-third anniversary of the United Nations and in the presence of the country team in Colombia, which with 23 agencies and programmes is one of the Organization's largest in the world. On that occasion Foreign Minister Trujillo Garcia stated that Colombia has a multilateralist Government. Colombia has been a friend of multilateralism, and it will continue to strengthen multilateralism. We understand multilateralism to be the natural space within which to share concerns in order to develop common solutions — even more so in today's world where global problems require global solutions. The United Nations can count on Colombia.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mrs. Zappia (Italy) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Ivorian presidency of the Security Council for having convened this meeting. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for the compelling briefings that we have heard.

Italy aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union.

Italy believes that an effective and efficient peace architecture must be based on partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, as set out in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. First and foremost, that means further strengthening ties between the United Nations and the African Union (AU), based on mutual respect, shared values and comparative advantages. We welcome the progress achieved under the leadership of Secretary-General Guterres and Mr. Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, since the signing of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security in April 2017, and we encourage the strengthening of relations between the two organizations. At the same time, we welcome the strengthening of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

We also welcome the progress made with regard to the implementation of the African Union Peace Fund. We believe that it is important to stress that the Fund must finance mediation and preventive diplomacy activities in addition to peace operations. The continent is currently experiencing historic changes. Reconciliation between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the mediation efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which led to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the Sudan and South Sudan, attest to the possibility of finding African solutions to African problems, while, at the same time, pursuing the objectives of the Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative.

Italy continues to advocate for the use of United Nations assessed contributions to finance African peace operations, provided that they meet the highest standards in the areas of troop quality, training, equipment, financial transparency, respect for human rights and discipline. It is also necessary to develop a reference framework concerning respect for international humanitarian law and human rights. In that context, let me to broach the issue of Africa's representation within United Nations bodies. Africa's underrepresentation in the Security Council must be redressed. As a member of the Uniting for Consensus group, Italy hopes to strengthen cooperation with African countries by addressing the important issue of the reform of the Security Council with the aim of making it more democratic, representative, transparent and accountable. The United Nations and the European Union (EU) have a long history of cooperation in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Italy fully supports the strengthening of that strategic relationship, while valuing the complementarity of the work of those two organizations. Similarly, triangular United Nations-EU-AU cooperation, which has already shown itself to be extremely effective on the ground, must be further developed.

The partnership with the United Nations came up for discussion during our chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) this year. In keeping with the motto of our presidency — "dialogue, ownership and responsibility" — we have promoted initiatives aimed at strengthening the synergy and complementarity of the United Nations and the OSCE's work and at encouraging dialogue and the regular exchange of information between the two organizations, while, at the same time, contributing to the financing of its Liaison Office with the United Nations in Vienna. We have focused on priority sectors for the international community, while considering the connections linking the Eurasian and Euro-Mediterranean security dimensions. In that regard, I will mention only Ukraine and the central role played by the OSCE in every aspect related to the solution of that crisis. The OSCE Ministerial Council, which is meeting in Milan today, provides us with the opportunity to take stock of and identify the next steps to be taken. The United Nations is playing an active role in that process with a view to strengthening cooperation.

In the same spirit, as Chairman of the Central European Initiative for 2019, Italy will make the development of synergies with the United Nations one its mandate's objectives. It is also important to recall long-term cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe. There is clear complementarity linking the values and goals of the two organizations, in particular the fight for democracy, the rule of law, the promotion and the protection of human rights, and basic freedoms.

At the subregional level, we believe that it is crucial to deepen cooperation between the United Nations and other bodies that can complement the work of continental organizations, based on the principle of subsidiarity. In Africa, for example, the United Nations could benefit from the prominence and effectiveness of organizations such as ECOWAS and IGAD. In that regard, I would like to mention the case of the Gambia, where the Security Council, working in cooperation with ECOWAS, enabled the Gambian crisis to end in a peaceful transition of power in 2017. At that time, Italy was a non-permanent member of the Council during its split-term with the Netherlands.

In conclusion, let me point out that effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional bodies must increasingly focus on the prevention dimension of conflicts. In that regard, I reiterate Italy's full support for the Secretary-General's reform and the implementation of his Agenda for Peace in a coherent and global vision with a holistic approach encompassing the peace and security, human rights and development pillars.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Munir (Pakistan): Let me also begin by thanking you, Sir, for convening this important open debate. We also thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of Commission of the Economic Community of West African States for their insightful briefings.

In 1945, as the world emerged from the most destructive war in human history, it became apparent that, if succeeding generations were indeed to be saved from the scourge of war, the impulse of warmongering had to be subdued by the ideal of peacemaking. It is therefore no coincidence that the Charter of the United Nations places such a high premium on the pursuit of friendly relations among States, based on the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The repository of measures outlined in Chapter VI of the Charter provides a framework of action to place the pacific settlement of disputes at the centre of the global peace and security architecture. Chapter VIII then expands on that by synergizing the efforts of the United Nations and regional organizations. The reasons for that are obvious: more often than not, countries of a particular region are better equipped to understand the challenges faced by that region and respond to them. The existing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) serves as a point of inflection. We welcome the joint declaration on partnership between the United Nations and the African Union today, which is being signed as we speak.

The active engagement of the international community and the consent of the host Government are essential throughout the peace continuum — from containing conflict to building peaceful, sustainable and inclusive societies. What better celebration of that is there than the success of Côte d'Ivoire transforming itself into a peaceful, vibrant and thriving State. Pakistan takes pride in contributing to that endeavour through its peacekeepers serving with professionalism, commitment and dedication in the United Nations

Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. We also pay tribute to the 12 Pakistani peacekeepers who laid down their lives for that cause.

As theatres of conflict through the world increase in complexity, peacekeeping remains the best tool at the disposal of the United Nations and a testament to its effectiveness. The success of peacekeeping is due to the fact that, with national ownership, it creates space in conflict zones for locally generated political solutions. Let me make six specific points in that regard.

First, we support the provision of predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for AU-led peace operations, as agreed in the Declaration of Shared Commitments under the Action for Peacekeeping initiative, especially those authorized by the Security Council itself.

Secondly, sequenced, prioritized and adequately resourced Security Council mandates are a prerequisite for success.

Thirdly, the Secretariat needs to play its part by highlighting the resource gaps, which the Security Council must then resolve.

Fourthly, in the crafting of mandates, the safety and security of peacekeepers should be kept in mind. Troop-contributing countries can provide valuable input, as they have experience in mandate implementation in the field.

Fifthly, with regard to the performance of peacekeepers, reviews must take a holistic view, starting with mandate formulation, transparency in force generation and the integration of the various components of the mission, and not analyse performance merely using the unifocal lens of the contributions on the part of troop- and police-contributing countries.

Lastly, we believe that any reform should steer clear of changing the nature of peacekeeping or diluting its basic principles. We must not fudge the distinction between peacekeeping and peace enforcement. That would run the risk of causing the United Nations to become a party to the conflict and permanently damaging not only multilateralism, but also the very basis on which the success of peacekeeping is built, namely, neutrality and impartiality.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Moncada (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 120 States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The Non-Aligned Movement wishes to reiterate its full commitment to promoting the peaceful settlement of disputes, in line with the provisions of Article 2 and Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as relevant United Nations resolutions and international law, based on the conviction that those principles serve to strengthen international peace and security, thereby contributing to our collective efforts to save future generations from the scourge of war and armed conflicts.

We emphasize that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lies with the United Nations and that agreements reached with regional and subregional organizations should be pursued under the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. Those agreements must not in any way serve as a substitute for the role of this Organization nor should they bypass the full application of the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations. At the same time, we underscore that the implementation of all tasks entrusted to peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations should be supported by a comprehensive peace process and the provision of adequate resources and should be based on national ownership, the support of the international community, and the consent and acceptance of all of the parties concerned.

The role of regional and subregional organizations has become increasingly more important, and they should receive support from the United Nations, bearing in mind that those organizations tend to have a better understanding of the realities, dynamics and background of the conflicts in their respective regions. That means that they have a comparative advantage to both tackle and prevent conflicts, as well as to support political processes aimed at achieving the peaceful settlement of disputes. On many occasions, such as in the case of the African Union, regional organizations also have a well-established road map for the region and enjoy respected political authority.

The countries of the Non-Aligned Movement therefore wish to highlight the role of regional and subregional agreements or bodies — including those

to which Non-Aligned Movement countries and developing countries are a party — in the promotion of international peace and security, as well as in the economic and social development of their peoples, through cooperation among countries in their respective regions.

We underscore the need for the Peacebuilding Commission to establish coordination among regional and subregional organizations, with a view to ensuring that regional efforts receive the necessary attention and support. We also express the need to develop integrated peacebuilding strategies with programmes that are able to adapt to the needs of the host countries in order to ensure national ownership.

Speaking now in our national capacity, Venezuela rejects the manipulation pursued by certain regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States, in contrast to our relations with the African Union. The United States of America — the most powerful Power in the hemisphere — is in clear violation of all of the norms of international law and the foundational Charter of the Organization of American States itself, by insulting, coercing and punishing the States members of that Organization in order to subject them to United States economic and political interests and designs. The United States has a political doctrine — the Monroe Doctrine — that still today, 200 years after its inception, openly considers the entire American region as part of its own backyard and states that the United States has the right to act as the overriding police authority in the region.

The Charter of the Organization of American States and the Charter of the United Nations are being deliberately violated in that States are being threatened with the imposition of unilateral and illegal coercive measures, if they do not comply with the aggressive campaign of the United States of America. We have now reached the point whereby the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States has made a public call for war and military intervention, endangering the peace of the region, while benefiting from the protection and support of the United States Government. In that regard, we reject the United States' manipulation of that regional organization in order to advance its own imperial interests, promote its warmongering policy and attempt to undermine the peace and security of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Guatemala.

Mr. Castañeda Solares (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Guatemala is grateful to you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire for having convened this debate and for having prepared the concept note (S/2018/1064). We extend our gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, for his briefing and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh, for his statement.

The topic that we have gathered here today to discuss is of particular importance, given that regional and subregional organizations have assumed a more significant role in conflict prevention, in addressing the root causes of conflicts and, in many cases, in providing their good offices for the prevention and resolution of disputes. That approach is in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The role of regional organizations is widely recognized as key to the establishment of partnerships with global institutions. Regional and subregional organizations have evolved considerably since the end of the Cold War. Despite their variability in size, membership structure and strategic objectives, many of those organizations have experienced an expansion of their mandates, legal frameworks and organizational capacities to address a wide range of political, security and human rights issues.

The growing importance of regional and subregional organizations in the prevention of conflicts reflects the need for more complex and multidimensional cooperation, which, despite varying circumstances, has always proven to be useful and complementary. That is the case in the relationship between the Security Council and the African Union regarding the adoption of mandates for peacekeeping operations, which are based on the principle that Governments and national authorities have the primary responsibility for determining, bolstering and steering the priorities, strategies and activities aimed at sustaining peace.

The need for regional and subregional organizations is clear. Some 33 regional economic organizations have been founded since 1989, and 29 regional intergovernmental organizations have established agendas related to peace and security. The international community has developed various tools and has learned lessons on preventing the outbreak, escalation and re-emergence of conflicts.

In the particular case of my delegation, we commend the significant role played by the Organization of American States (OAS) as a forum enabling the implementation of conflict prevention and resolution through the strengthening of representative democracy across the inter-American system, which is based on the Inter-American Democratic Charter and is an instrument that seeks to strengthen and preserve democratic institutions. We also recognize the work of the Inter-American Defense Board, which provides the OAS and its member States with technical, advisory and educational consultation on issues related to military and defence matters in the hemisphere, in order to contribute to compliance with the Charter of the Organization of American States.

To conclude, it is my delegation's view that the cooperation of the United Nations with regional and subregional organizations is fundamental to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, given that those organizations complement the work of the Security Council and help it to comply with its primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Namibia.

Mr. Gertze (Namibia): I congratulate you, Mr. President, on Côte d'Ivoire's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December and express my gratitude to you for the convening of this debate on the important topic of the role of States, regional organizations and the United Nations in conflict prevention and resolution. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU) for their insightful briefings.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Namibia is currently the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Within the United Nations framework, we are working towards holding subregional dialogues and briefings with United Nations agencies, which will allow for greater learning opportunities for the countries of the region, as well as frank and open dialogue and greater cooperation. We encourage other subregional organizations to conduct similar meetings to strengthen cooperation and coherence between subregional organizations and the United Nations.

There is long-standing cooperation between the United Nations and SADC on electoral partnership initiatives. In April, the Organization and SADC successfully held a joint Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections regional training workshop on gender and elections. The workshop aimed to provide electoral stakeholders with an opportunity to explore the role of women in electoral and political processes in the SADC region and to address ways of enhancing women's participation in those processes. SADC is engaged in the electoral process in Madagascar and is looking forward to a peaceful outcome to the country's elections, which are on course for 19 December. We also look forward to the holding of additional workshops and other important discussions within our region, in the interest of peace and security.

SADC plays an important role in maintaining peace and security in the region. In Lesotho, the SADC Preventive Mission has generated a stable and secure environment that now paves the way for the implementation of constitutional and institutional reforms, as recommended by SADC. Crucial elections will be held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in less than two-weeks' time. Those elections will mark an important step for the country, the region and the continent. The contribution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the region is important for the region's social and economic development. Both the African Union and SADC are actively cooperating and monitoring to ensure the successful holding of peaceful elections.

The open debate held last month in the Chamber on strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa (see S/PV.8407)highlighted the increased cooperation between the United Nations and the AU in the context of peacekeeping operations. Many delegations, including Namibia, singled out the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, signed in April 2017. The Framework provides guidance for deepening peace and security cooperation between the two organizations at all levels. Numerous Security Council resolutions have also underscored the important United Nations-AU partnership in the context of peacekeeping cooperation. Delegations also mentioned the successful partnership

between the organizations with regard to the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Your country, Mr. President, also serves as an excellent example of successful cooperation and working relationship among the United Nations, the AU and ECOWAS, as demonstrated by the successful ending of the peacekeeping United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire in June 2017.

African-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council are an essential and vital component in ensuring peace and security on the African continent. Given Africa's decision, taken at the highest level, to bear financial responsibility for 25 per cent of its peace activities, which further attests to its unflinching commitment to securing peace in the continent, and the fact that more than half of the top 20 countries contributing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations are African, Namibia fully supports the call by the AU and the African members of the Security Council for those operations to have access to United Nations-assessed contributions, on a case-by-case basis. That would ensure sustainable and predictable financing for those operations, which is critical for their success.

In the annual open debate on women and peace and security held recently (see S/PV.8382), we recognized that progress had been made in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) since its adoption 18 years ago. However, Member States underscored that much still remained to be done. Women need to play a greater role in peacekeeping operations — in mediation and negotiations and in the post-conflict and peacebuilding phases. Namibia is playing its part. This past month, we achieved the target set by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of 15 per cent of women participating in peacekeeping missions. In January, 15 police officers, including three women, will be deployed to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Furthermore, in the lead-up to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), Namibia will host the third capital-level Focal Point Network Meeting in Windhoek from 10 to 11 April next year — the first of its kind on the continent. All Member States and civil society are invited to participate.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Lebanon.

Ms. Mudallali (Lebanon): Allow me to begin by congratulating the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December and for holding this important debate. I would also like to thank President Ouattara for his inspiring speech yesterday (see S/PV.8413), as well as Secretary-General Guterres and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, for their insightful remarks.

Our world today continues to face unprecedented serious challenges to peace and security. Those include persistent traditional challenges, such as internal crises, wars and regional tensions. We are also seeing the emergence of new threats — terrorist acts, cybersecurity threats and the adverse impact of climate change, to name a few. The United Nations must now, more than ever, confront security crises of an overwhelming magnitude — both in number and scope. That gloomy reality amplifies the importance of collective action for conflict resolution. It also highlights the need for long-term prevention as a paramount tool for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

The Secretary-General has put prevention at the heart of his vision for the reform of the United Nations peace and security architecture. He has also attached the highest priority to forging robust partnerships among all relevant stakeholders in addressing threats to peace and security. That includes strengthening cooperation among States, the United Nations and regional and subregional groupings.

President Ouattara said yesterday that Côte d'Ivoire should be a source of inspiration for other post-conflict reconstruction. That is true. Lebanon too can serve as a source of inspiration for post-conflict rebirth. Lebanon is a concrete example of how multi-levelled cooperation can play a decisive role in conflict resolution, post-conflict economic reconstruction and peacebuilding. After a devastating 15 years of civil war, which started in 1975, Lebanon witnessed a full-fledged Israeli invasion and a subsequent Israeli occupation of an Arab capital and a large area of our territory. Thanks to the Arab world and the international community, Lebanon was able to stand again on its feet. The international community worked feverishly to restore peace in Lebanon and to bring an end to the occupation. The United Nations played a central role in those efforts. Various Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 425 (1978), were critical.

However, regional initiatives were equally important. The League of Arab States kept the situation in Lebanon under its close attention, initiating political talks, dispatching envoys and, at one point, even deploying joint forces to stabilize the conflict. The adoption of the Taif Accords, in 1989, brought our devastating civil war to an end. The Accords were the culmination of a national political process facilitated by a regional initiative and supported by the United Nations and the international community. The Lebanese people will remain immensely grateful to the host, Saudi Arabia, for its efforts, and to the enabling umbrella of the League of Arab States for achieving peace. Lebanon has enjoyed two decades of internal peace thanks to that collective Arab effort. That is the best example of how regional cooperation and solidarity can bring about peace.

However, and as the Chairperson of the African Union Commission said yesterday in the Chamber (see S/PV.8413), silencing the guns is only the first step. The real work of making peace starts afterwards. An enormous amount of work needs to be done after the end of civil turmoil to preserve peace, achieve national reconciliation, rebuild the country and society and solidify the foundations of a revitalized democracy. Such ongoing collaborative efforts on the national, regional and international levels also supported Lebanon's efforts towards post-conflict recovery. Once again, Arab assistance and international support provided an indispensable boost for my country with regard to its post-war reconstruction and institutional and economic revival. We could not have done it alone.

Leadership is also just as important, if not more important, to achieving that end. Late Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri led an enormous reconstruction effort that revived the country and its economy. We are still enjoying the fruits of that effort.

The United Nations remains a major contributor to peace and security in Lebanon today. Thanks to its peacekeeping mission, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the situation in southern Lebanon remains generally calm, contributing positively to the overall stability in the country and beyond. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon and various United Nations agencies continue to support the Lebanese Government's tireless work towards sustaining peace and economic well-being in the face of colossal challenges, especially the burdens that arise from the Syrian refugee situation.

The Rome II, CEDRE, and Brussels Conferences of 2018 are the latest demonstrations of the generous international and regional commitment to the stability and welfare of my country. They are also good examples of how post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding efforts in one country can be a long-term investment in peace and security regionally and internationally. While international organizations are guardians of the pillars of international law, it is regional and subregional organizations that provide a contextual angle, enabling a clearer and closer understanding of and responsiveness to local and regional security issues. It is evident that the complementarity of both international and regional structures is something we should build on in our collective goal towards achieving global peace and security. As Secretary-General Guterres said yesterday, a holistic approach to peace is the right way to achieve long-term peace and security.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Vaultier Mathias (Portugal) (*spoke in French*): First of all, let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on convening this open debate.

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union and would like to make some comments in its national capacity.

Conflict prevention, which is a founding principle of the United Nations and is enshrined in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, is something that my country highly values when it comes to promoting sustainable peace. We support the United Nations system reform process launched by the Secretary-General, and in particular the emphasis it places on conflict prevention, the primacy of policy and the use of diplomacy as the preferred means towards achieving sustainable peace. The implementation of those reforms as of 1 January 2019 will constitute a new step in reaffirming our collective commitment to the central role of the United Nations in conflict prevention. Those three components of reform address the importance of increased cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations based on a broad and integrated partnership towards peace support. We must expand on the dual concept of peacekeeping and peace enforcement to include early warning, mediation, coordination, political messages and strategic communication in order to prevent the outbreak and escalation of conflict.

With regard to cooperation among the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, management and resolution, we advocate for a comprehensive approach and, at the same time, close cooperation with local, regional and international partners so as to strengthen regional and local ownership. We see regional organizations as first responders in international crises that use their resources and mobilize good offices to reduce tensions and sometimes even address the deep roots of conflict, of which include severe underdevelopment. As such, we support the strengthening of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the context of peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we also support complementary action by the European Union, including through trilateral cooperation and regional strategies.

Since the Mediation Support Unit was established in 2006 within the Department of Political Affairs, several other organizations, such as the European Union, the African Union (AU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, have launched similar initiatives, thereby demonstrating the multifaceted cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and strengthening the leadership role of the United Nations in that area. The action undertaken by the Group of Friends of Mediation within the United Nations, the EU, the African Union and the OSCE is another example. It also bears mentioning that regional organizations are useful platforms for dialogue and cooperation towards the promotion of global governance. For its part, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries brings together very diverse countries from four different continents. They share two things in common: language and common values. That is the strength of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries — as an integral intermediary, it provides added value within the context of wider international cooperation.

In order to better reform the mandates of the Security Council, particularly those in the most vulnerable environments, it is increasingly essential to consider a new operations framework for situations that demand significant mobility and rapid responses, in particular with regard to assisting unprotected civilians and deterring possible attacks. The rapid reaction force within the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, where Portugal currently has its largest contingent, of roughly 160 soldiers, is a concrete example of the increased effectiveness being sought out for the Council's mandates.

In conclusion, and with regard to the performance of peace operations, it is clearly essential to ensure that human rights and humanitarian law are respected. Nonetheless, we believe that it is also necessary to promote a greater gender balance in the military, police and civilian components of peacekeeping operations, not only with a view to more accurate representation but also with the aim of improving the capacity of missions by involving all segments of the population. In that context, it is also increasingly important to integrate into our collective action the contributions of young people in conflict prevention and resolution.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. González Serafini (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to thank the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for convening this debate and welcome the presence this morning of Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. We also thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States for their briefings.

Argentina reaffirms its firm commitment and support for the system for maintaining international peace and security within the framework of the United Nations, based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which includes international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We believe that the United Nations is the only international organization of which the primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security through a number of tools that must come together to form a comprehensive strategy that includes conflict prevention, conflict resolution through peaceful means, peacekeeping and building sustainable peace. Such a strategy should incorporate a sustainable development and human rights perspective and address the root causes of conflict. Prevention efforts, the promotion of sustainable development, the protection of human rights, the promotion of the rule of law, access to justice and accountability, peacekeeping operations, special political missions, peacebuilding efforts and

other initiatives of the Organization constitute political tools that must be shaped and implemented as part of a comprehensive and multidimensional strategy in support of viable political processes and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

That is why we are convinced of the value of regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, while acknowledging the primary responsibility of the Security Council and the United Nations in that regard, as well as in terms of building and consolidating sustainable peace. The development of multilateralism and cooperation among States at the regional level and regional and subregional structures and United Nations agencies have proven to be highly effective in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts through the promotion of political dialogue and mediation. In addition to these, greater in-depth knowledge of the specific characteristics and unique features of each incidence of conflict or dispute has also helped generate a greater sense of ownership within each peace process.

Such cooperation must be consolidated through the Security Council, in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. In that regard, the Council should focus its efforts in a coordinated manner and in cooperation with other United Nations organs and regional and subregional organizations, as well as with other entities focused on conflict prevention, sustainable development, human rights and rule of law. The effectiveness of both the role played by the Secretary-General through his good offices and his Special Envoys and Representatives, as well as that of United Nations regional offices, to promote processes of political dialogue for the resolution of conflicts has also been demonstrated.

Through the Declaration of Shared Commitments issued within the framework of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, sponsoring States reaffirm the primacy of politics in the resolution of conflicts. We also committed ourselves to strengthening regional and subregional arrangements through international cooperation and support measures with the aim of improving the strategic partnership between those organizations and the United Nations in the areas of capacity-building and financing.

Finally, in context of my region — the Americas — I must to highlight the role that the Organization of American States (OAS) and other subregional organizations can play. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, as well as the United Nations Mission in Colombia and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, are examples of how the strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations — such as the OAS, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other specialized regional agencies — and the United Nations system can generate invaluable comparative advantages in efforts to achieve sustainable peace. That is achieved through processes of prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, the peaceful settlement of disputes, reconciliation, transitional justice, the promotion of the rule of law and the strengthening of institutions, the promotion and protection of human rights and sustainable development.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Sparber (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein is grateful for this open debate and appreciates the presence of the Secretary- General among the briefers for today's discussion, which underlines the importance of the role regional organizations can play in the maintenance of peace and security. It also serves as a reminder that effective conflict prevention and resolution can substantially benefit from the mechanisms enshrined in Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. A recommitment to those tools and their better operationalization is therefore in the interests of us all.

In our region — Europe — the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has played an invaluable role to ensure stability. It is therefore with great concern that we have been witnessing the constant violation of its fundamental principles.

After the Second World War, which originated in Europe, our region has undergone successful political and economic integration. The European Union (EU) in particular has been an important element of stability and an actor for peace to the benefit of all European partners, including those that are not EU members, such as ourselves. Unfortunately, since the 1990s, we have also witnessed a proliferation of conflicts, and today we face growing tensions and an overall deterioration of the security situation in Europe.

With the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, Europe risks losing a vital element of its security architecture. Liechtenstein supports the

painstaking efforts in the framework of the OSCE to resolve European conflicts, including those in and around Ukraine and in Georgia, as well as the Transnistrian and the Nagorno Karabakh conflicts. Its important work continues to take place, while we seem to continue drifting further away from a consensus on the fundamental principles of our common European security. That is both a reflection of the practical value of the OSCE and an urgent task for Europe to underpin the OSCE's work with a renewed consensus on a set of strong and values-based principles on security and cooperation, as reflected in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of the United Nations. Liechtenstein is strongly convinced that the OSCE continues to have an important role to play as a platform for dialogue in that regard.

The recent dangerous increase of tensions in the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait is of high concern to us. It has once again demonstrated that the conflict in and around Ukraine is driven by continued serious violations of international law. Against the backdrop of increasing militarization in the area, Liechtenstein joins the calls for the utmost restraint and an immediate de-escalation, as well as a return to a rules-based order in accordance with applicable international law. Liechtenstein reiterates its full support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea.

The concept note for this meeting (see S/2018/1064, annex) rightfully points to the fact that many contemporary conflicts are internal crises, which are perpetuated or repeated in the absence of political processes to end them. That is the new reality of conflict that the United Nations needs to fully embrace if it is to play its role as the primary guardian of international peace and security, with the help of regional organizations. In addressing such crises, it appears that we often fall short of penetrating their root causes. Upgrading our toolbox in dealing with internal crises to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to prevent conflict is a key aspect of the prevention agenda outlined by the Secretary-General, which we fully support. As a member of the Group of Friends on Mediation, Liechtenstein also welcomes the Secretary-General's commitment to inclusive mediation and to increasing the capacity of the United Nations in terms of prevention and early action.

Liechtenstein is a long-standing supporter of the right to self-determination as a means of preventing and resolving internal conflicts when applied in conformity with international law, including the principle of territorial integrity. Many of today's intra-State conflicts are rooted in a community's desire for a greater measure of self-governance and resistance to their claim by the State. States should be encouraged to engage peacefully with communities with a view to finding an appropriate measure of self-governance in order to prevent and mitigate conflict. We will continue our work in partnership with others to develop tools and strategies for mediators to identify and properly address intra-State conflicts that are driven by grievances related to self-governance. We look forward to sharing the results of this work with all interested delegations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Molefe (South Africa): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire for assuming the presidency of the Security Council and thank you for organizing this debate on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations and the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention of conflicts.

Allow me to start with a quote from former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali from *An Agenda for Peace*, his report to the General Assembly on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping, published on 17 June 1992. With regard to a new era of opportunity for regional arrangements, he stated that

> "regional action as a matter of decentralization, delegation and cooperation with United Nations efforts could not only lighten the burden of the Council but also contribute to a deeper sense of participation, consensus and democratization in international affairs." (*S/24111, para. 64*).

South Africa has always prioritized an enhanced strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution. In its previous terms on the Security Council, South Africa championed the landmark decision on strengthening strategic cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council in resolution 2033 (2012), adopted during South Africa's presidency

of the Council and building on the South African-sponsored resolution 1809 (2008).

Since then, South Africa has been consistent in its efforts to deepen cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations. Those resolutions and the subsequent efforts to draw on the comparative advantages of regional organizations in the context of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations build on the principle of subsidiarity, which allows the Security Council to be more effective and efficient in the pursuit of its central mandate. Therefore, as an incoming non-permanent member of the Security Council, South Africa will continue to work together with the three non-permanent Security Council members from Africa and other Council members to strengthen that cooperation.

Furthermore, South Africa firmly supports the Secretary-General's call for a surge in diplomacy and conflict prevention, which gains much from greater cooperation with regional organizations. South Africa's own commitment to mediation and conflict prevention is well known, and we have responded, in that regard, to assist in resolving conflicts in countries such as Burundi, the Sudan, South Sudan, Lesotho, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo by employing a wide variety of diplomatic tools to help stabilize the situation in those countries. Those have included mediation, good offices, troop deployment and direct technical and financial assistance.

However, due to the lack of support for and focus on peacebuilding, as well as the lack of sustained attention on post-conflict economies, we often see those efforts undone by the continuation of instability and conflict. That shows a failure to consolidate peace gains and an inability to learn from past inaction. It also highlights the importance of addressing conflict in the broader sense by dealing with the root causes of instability, based on the understanding that peace, stability, development and human rights are interdependent. South Africa believes that regional organizations are best placed to implement actions that prevent instability and conflict.

For that reason, South Africa welcomes the positive developments in the signing of two agreements — the Joint Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security — which form the platform for renewed cooperation between the two organizations.

However, we believe that more work needs to be done to facilitate joint visits, as well as regular consultations between the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, to guarantee greater coherence and convergence of strategic direction. That will also enhance the conflict-prevention and early warning systems of the two organizations. It is also critical to enhance cooperation between the AU post-conflict reconstruction and development mechanisms and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). South Africa believes that there is a need for a strong focus and strengthened support for the PBC, which can no longer be seen as an afterthought, but should take centre stage, with a more proactive approach of the Security Council on conflict prevention and resolution.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union is an excellent example of the potential of cooperation with regional organizations. Over the years, African Union member States have demonstrated their willingness and intent to lead the way in preventing and resolving conflicts on the African continent. Those efforts should be enhanced in order to maximize the gains that have been made so far.

The AU has undertaken peace operations in Somalia and Darfur, and has been first respondent in cases such as Mali and the Central African Republic, risking much and often paying the ultimate price in terms of the lives of African troops. However, the continent continues to face the challenge of a lack of predictable funding for its peace operations. While Africans risk their lives in efforts to take responsibility for peace and security on the continent, which is a large part of the mandate of the Security Council, Africa is not being afforded the sustained, predictable and flexible funding for African Union-led peace operations.

Therefore, while we welcome resolutions 1809 (2008), 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017), which allude to the need of addressing that lack of financial support, we call for unanimous Council support for the draft resolution, presented by the African members on the Council, that seeks to address the issue of financing for AU-led peace operations. Africa has demonstrated its political will and committed human resources and lives to silencing the guns on the continent, but

needs assistance to enhance some of its capacities and capabilities in order to adequately respond to conflicts.

With the African Standby Force having been declared fully operational, the AU has demonstrated that it is capable and ready to address its own security challenges within the continent. The AU Commission in 2016 also developed a five-year work plan for the period 2016-2020 for the African Standby Force, and thus far command-post training and exercises to boost the military, police and civilian components of the African Standby Force have been carried out.

It is also vital that the Council realize the importance of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the agenda of enhancing the role of women in peace and security, not only as peacekeepers but as mediators in conflict. South Africa believes that the involvement of women in the peaceful resolution of conflict and the protection of women and children as vulnerable groups will prove crucial in achieving sustainable peace and development.

Allow me to conclude by recalling the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit, which was adopted during the high-level week in September, in which world leaders acknowledged "the incontrovertible truth that conflict is in all ways more costly than preventive diplomacy" (*resolution 73/1, para. 14*) and expressed their full support for the work of the United Nations. They also agreed to "strive to support peace processes, conflict prevention and resolution efforts, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development" (*ibid.*). We trust that today's debate will work towards achieving those goals through enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the AU.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Singapore.

Mr. Chua (Singapore): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this open debate on the very important topic of the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

As a small country, Singapore's security and prosperity are highly dependent on a stable regional and international order. We therefore firmly believe in conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy. Timely political action must be taken to prevent disputes that could threaten regional peace and stability from escalating into all-out confrontation. Singapore also believes that regional security and stability are best served by a robust, open and inclusive security architecture that encourages all relevant parties to have a voice at the table and engage constructively in dialogue with one another.

As a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which was established 51 years ago, Singapore has seen the strides that ASEAN has taken over the decades in its contributions to peace and stability in the region. ASEAN was formed at a time of great geopolitical instability. South-East Asia was divided and conflicts were rife. The fact that the founding members of ASEAN — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — could get together to establish ASEAN, despite their fundamental differences, was a major achievement. Since then, the ASEAN family has grown to 10 members. There has been no outright conflict or war between ASEAN member States. There are and will be disagreements, but what is important is that each ASEAN member State remains committed to consensus and resolving differences through words rather than weapons. In this day and age, that is an achievement worth celebrating and must also be preserved at all costs.

ASEAN also recognizes that an effective regional security framework for peace and stability has to be based on strong support for a rules-based multilateral system and international law. We also need to have greater communication, mutual trust and confidence among all relevant stakeholders in the region so that miscalculations and mishaps are minimized. The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), which involves eight of ASEAN's dialogue partners — namely, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States — aims to achieve that at the highest level among the respective Defence Ministers. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) comprises 27 members, including the European Union, and seeks to do the same. Both the ADMM-Plus and the ARF are ASEAN-led mechanisms that provide avenues for greater interaction and dialogue among countries. They play an important role in conflict prevention and in the development of a more robust, rules-based regional security order.

The United Nations cannot prevent conflict or deal with these transboundary and contemporary threats alone. States and regional organizations must be meaningfully engaged to complement the work of the

United Nations in addressing these issues. The Plan of Action (2016-2020) to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations is an example. It outlines the strategic priorities that will be undertaken by both sides to further enhance political, security, economic and sociocultural cooperation. Of note, it promotes closer cooperation for sustaining peace, preventive diplomacy and confidence-building measures though capacity-building activities. The importance of enhancing cooperation in preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention was further emphasized in the recent meeting between ASEAN members and the United Nations Secretary-General in September.

The recognition of the contributions of regional organizations to peace and security is not new, and has been outlined in Security Council resolution 1631 (2005) and General Assembly resolution 69/277, entitled "Political declaration on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations". Just last week, the General Assembly adopted seven resolutions that highlighted the further collaboration and deepening engagement between regional organizations and the United Nations. Given their specialized knowledge, functional expertise and holistic understanding of regional contexts, such organizations can contribute to enhancing the work of the United Nations in a manner that takes into account the specific circumstances and needs of each Member State. This is an important element in gaining the trust and confidence of the parties involved. Trust and confidence are integral to any dialogue and negotiation process.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Licharz (Germany) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by congratulating Côte d'Ivoire on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month and by thanking you for having convened this debate on a subject of vital importance.

(*spoke in English*)

To begin, Germany would like to commend Côte d'Ivoire. As recently as last year, it was still the host country of a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Today, it is a member of the Security Council. We can learn a great deal from this success story, and we appreciate the lessons Côte d'Ivoire has shared with us. Let me make two brief points.

First, Germany strongly supports cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations on prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Such cooperation, if complementary and coordinated, enables more effective implementation of mandates and thus better results on the ground. The United Nations-European Union Action Plan for Crisis Management and Peace Operations, the United Nations-European Union Steering Committee on Crisis Management and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security are excellent examples of successful cooperation. The international community should invest more in such cooperation by building capacities and networks to sustain peace. Let me give a few examples.

For instance, Germany co-hosted a conference on the Lake Chad region in September with Nigeria, Norway and the United Nations. The event focused on the humanitarian-development-peace-nexus and the implementation of resolution 2349 (2017). The Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum is another successful example of cross-border regional cooperation called for under resolution 2349 (2017). Germany welcomes the fact that the Lake Chad countries have demonstrated ownership by adopting a stabilization strategy developed by the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union.

Germany provides assistance to African partners for early warning, prevention and mediation activities. We are an active partner in mediation efforts conducted under the umbrella of the African Union, for example in the Sudan and South Sudan. We are proud to support the African Union Mediation Support Unit, which will increase the efficiency of African-led mediation efforts.

The European Union and the African Union have also shown great leadership in putting the women and peace and security agenda into action. Germany is proud to support these efforts, especially the African Women Leaders Network. We are convinced that women's access to political leadership, in particular their participation in peace processes, leads to a more sustainable peace.

Secondly, we need to strive for international and regional responses that are context specific, sequenced and well-coordinated. In that regard, the Security Council must take a more comprehensive approach to crisis management in order to prevent relapse into

conflict. Too often, we have seen conflicts re-escalate following the conclusion of peacekeeping missions.

When devising its strategy for a specific conflict, the Security Council must develop realistic, politically sound and sufficiently financed mandates, as well as transition strategies that include prevention, stabilization and peacebuilding measures for all phases of the conflict. Regional organizations and troop-contributing countries can offer their expertise to help develop such mandates and ensure a coordinated international response from the start. That will also enable smooth transitions.

Regional and subregional organizations have unique skill sets and play a paramount role in implementing Security Council mandates. However, any contribution should be subject to clear performance standards and adhere to human rights and humanitarian law. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should play a significant role in developing a human rights framework for all peace operations.

Germany is committed to working with all Council members and the broader United Nations community to make transitions from peacekeeping to peacebuilding work. This also reflects the strong shared commitment to the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.

On the issue of peacebuilding, it is important to make better use of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Germany is currently Vice-Chair of the PBC and one of the largest contributors to conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the United Nations system. We should encourage States that are seeking assistance with peacebuilding efforts to come to the Peacebuilding Commission. We should also encourage others to contribute to the quantum leap in the Peacebuilding Fund and jointly make better use of the PBC's convening and advisory role.

In conclusion, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations enables the sharing of responsibilities based on the comparative strengths of each one. This leads to complementarity and avoids competition. Germany remains committed to supporting regional and subregional organizations, and their cooperation with the United Nations. We will continue to promote a holistic and coordinated approach to sustaining peace. We, as Member States, cannot afford to waste scarce resources or lack coherence. We should be seeking synergies and working closely together to sustain peace.

Let me finish by saying that Germany aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Norway.

Mr. Hattrem (Norway): I am delivering this statement on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country, Norway.

The United Nations ability to create effective partnerships with regional and subregional organizations is important for the prevention of and effective response to violent conflicts. The ongoing reforms in the United Nations and the African Union (AU) can further improve our ability to address the present challenges to international peace and security. Regional actors are often the first to experience early warning signs of conflict and can play a key role in prevention. They can also be essential partners to the United Nations in ensuring the implementation of peace agreements, countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism and addressing migration issues.

Partnerships with regional organizations are, quite rightly, given priority in the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative. Mandates for United Nations peace operations must be tailor-made to conditions on the ground, taking into account the importance of such partnerships. The ever-stronger partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, including subregional organizations, is very positive.

The Nordic countries welcome and support the efforts of the United Nations and the AU to strengthen cooperation and coordination in the area of peace and security and the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. African leadership and ownership are essential, as are partnerships. By joining forces, the AU and the United Nations can provide more efficient and coherent support to member countries' efforts to sustain peace and build resilient and prosperous nations.

It is encouraging to see how relations between the United Nations and the African Union are maturing and growing stronger. In less than two years, the institutions have signed and embarked upon the implementation of two important framework agreements. We will actively support the establishment of an open-ended group of friends of the United Nations-AU partnership in Addis Ababa. The purpose is to provide the support

and backing of member States for further joint United Nations-AU efforts for sustainable development, conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and mediation, including enhanced cooperation between the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council. The Nordic countries remain committed to continuing our substantial support to AU-United Nations cooperation.

The cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remains essential to maintaining peace and security, as well as preventing conflicts and achieving sustainable development in that region. It is inspiring to see how members of the United Nations family and ASEAN are working closely together in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

The Nordic countries are consistent partners in the efforts of the United Nations to further deepen existing arrangements with regional and subregional organizations and seek new opportunities for our common future. In order to realize the full potential of the AU-United Nations partnership, additional financial and political support is needed. We therefore welcome the ongoing work to enable access to assessed United Nations contributions.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mali.

Mr. Konfourou (Mali) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Mali welcomes the convening of this open debate by the presidency of Côte d'Ivoire on the role of States, regional agreements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. I hardly need to point out the relevance and acutely topical nature of this matter, especially for African countries, including Mali.

I thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission for their very informative briefings this morning.

No country better encapsulates the relevance of this topic than Côte d'Ivoire. Indeed, we deeply admire the continued leadership, vision and appropriate measures undertaken by President Alassane Ouattara to bring lasting stability and genuine reconciliation to our neighbour Côte d'Ivoire after years of crisis, the resolution of which required the crucial support of ECOWAS, the African Union and, notably, the United Nations.

I am aware that each crisis situation is unique, but I remain convinced that Côte d'Ivoire's model — I should say the country's success story, to use the expression President Ouattara used yesterday (see S/PV.8413) — is certainly a great source of inspiration for many countries seeking to emerge from crisis and instability. That is the essence of the regular high-level contact between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire.

For its part, Mali is resolutely committed to resolving the crisis that has affected it since 2012. To that end, under the authority of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, the Government is working to strengthen State institutions and enhance the legitimacy of the State in the eyes of the population. We are also working to bring the State closer to its citizens by improving governance in all areas, at both the national and local levels, in order to better address the concerns of our population, including with the provision of basic social services. Moreover, we have always fostered inclusive dialogue and regular consultation as a means of settling national problems, with a sustained focus on economic and social recovery, which includes creating employment opportunities, particularly for young people, and income-generating activities for the population, placing women and children at the heart of those policies.

For that reason, and to achieve a lasting resolution to the multidimensional crisis afflicting our country, the Government and other signatories are resolutely working towards the prompt implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process. It must be recalled that the Agreement contains relevant provisions for the political and institutional realms, those of defence and security, as well as for the economy and the areas of social development and national reconciliation. I remain convinced that the agreement, if fully implemented, will guarantee sustainable stability in Mali and beyond.

As part of the implementation of the agreement, Mali welcomes the active solidarity of several friendly countries and subregional and regional organizations, including the African Union, ECOWAS, the Group of Five for the Sahel and the United Nations.

I will conclude by saying that Mali fully supports the work undertaken by the three African members of

the Security Council on a draft resolution for financing peacekeeping operations in Africa.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

Mrs. Van Vlierberge (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I welcome and thank Côte d'Ivoire for its initiative to convene a debate on a subject that is so crucial to the work of the Security Council in exercising its responsibilities.

For Belgium, the importance of regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention is irrefutable, particularly in Africa, where African ownership of the continent's security challenges has led to undeniable progress over the past decade. Our observation and creed are simple and shared by many — when a crisis looms on the horizon, or when a crisis breaks out, neighbouring States, the subregion and continent are often better placed than the United Nations to act quickly and efficiently.

As a matter of principle, Belgium supports regional integration as the best way to resolve cross-border issues consensually, unite regions and create solidarity. I remain convinced that the European experience is a success story. Indeed, the European Union has enabled the longest period of peace in modern Europe. Moreover, I would like to reiterate our commitment to supporting the African Union in its efforts to strengthen and implement its policies, procedures and capabilities, as well as to making the financing of African Union-led peace operations more predictable, sustainable and flexible. For Belgium, that goal has been achieved, and it is now a question of making practical arrangements in that regard.

In the division of tasks and responsibilities among the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, our approach is guided by two core principles: complementarity and subsidiarity.

I will first broach subsidiarity. In The Gambia, we recently saw a fine example of putting that principle into practice, namely, the decisive action of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), under the auspices of the African Union and the United Nations, that has allowed for a transition towards democracy in a largely peaceful manner.

Turning to complementarity, Guinea-Bissau is a textbook example of the principle. True complementarity is demonstrated on the ground in the country, where the key commitment of the international community in support of its crisis recovery is embodied in the group of five international partners in Bissau, which brings together the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and ECOWAS.

The success of an electoral poll sometimes makes it possible to prevent or resolve a conflict. Electoral processes are another example of complementarity. Although the United Nations is sometimes involved in the preparations for and the holding of a ballot, electoral monitoring is regularly undertaken by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community or ECOWAS. Operational commitment, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, helps to reduce tension by implementing independent observation capacity, thereby complementing the political process.

Finally, with respect to mediation, regional organizations can bring their local knowledge and expertise to the field, while the United Nations offers neutrality, as well as universal authority and norms.

Beyond those principles, we must also recognize that each situation is different and ever-changing. Pre-establishing strict rules is not effective. What is certain is that different tiers each have their own uses and legitimacy and must be used in concert and combined in a coherent and effective way.

Regardless of the colour of the helmet, it is essential that the basic rules of international humanitarian law and human rights not be subject to any exception and be fully upheld during operations. Personnel are deployed with a view to seeking peace and a way out of the crisis; as such, their conduct must be exemplary. Belgium welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General to fight relentlessly against sexual violence in the United Nations, and the Council should set equally stringent standards for the regional operations that it authorizes.

Finally, I wish to reiterate our support for the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Commission of the African Union in establishing a compliance framework for the respect of human rights and international and humanitarian law.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Kenya.

Mr. Amayo (Kenya): We are indeed honoured to participate in this important discussion, which

highlights the role of Member States, regional arrangements and the United Nations as important stakeholders that need to collaborate in the prevention and resolution of conflicts within their respective levels of responsibilities and mandates.

My delegation wishes to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December, and for convening this important open debate, including the concept note (S/2018/1063, annex) that has been circulated to guide our discussions today.

We also welcome the briefings of Secretary-General Guterres; Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission; and Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States.

At the outset, let me indicate that Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

When it comes to the prevention and resolution of conflicts, the roles of the various stakeholders — be they States, regional and subregional organizations or the United Nations — are inextricably linked. In the pursuit of peaceful diplomacy, a nation State's quest for its own sustainable peace and security can be drawn from properly functioning, well-resourced security and judicial and development institutions. Those institutions also need to be inclusive. Additionally, given the changing nature of conflicts in our contemporary world, with many internal crises that often become transnational, the State is forced to look within and beyond its borders and be equipped in the areas of mediation and conflict resolution. All of those tools, if properly utilized, are important in strengthening internal and bilateral relations, as well as regional cooperation and enhanced multilateral engagements.

However, for conflict-affected countries in Africa and beyond, those instruments of peace are not always readily available. Therefore, during the reconstruction phase, a State's efforts to internally build and restructure both its institutions and its society should be encouraged and supported within the framework of national ownership.

Regional and subregional organizations have proved to be important vehicles for effective and preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution. Their role is becoming increasingly important and should be strengthened. Regional and subregional arrangements have the comparative advantage of proximity in understanding the context and layout of conflicts, including the background and dynamics of the cultural, economic and political processes involved. It is worth noting that Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations recognizes the important role of regional arrangements and agencies in the pacific settlement of local disputes.

Unless those regional arrangements are reinforced with sustainable and predictable funding, the efforts of some of those entities will always be threatened by fragility and the risk of relapse into conflict, leading to a lack of consolidation of sustainable peace and development. An example of that is the funding challenge that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) continues to face. Funding for AMISOM remains unpredictable and unreliable. In order for the Government of Somalia to fully establish its authority over the entire country of Somalia, AMISOM requires assured resources, including funding and personnel.

It is on that principle of sustainability that my delegation supports the African Union initiative and the proposed Security Council draft resolution on the financing of African peacekeeping operations to ensure predictable and sustainable financing for peace operations in Africa, as well as the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, which is aimed at renewing States' political commitment to peacekeeping operations.

The next aspect I would like to address is the role of the United Nations. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security lies with the Security Council, the entire United Nations system needs to work collaboratively through its various organs and subsidiary bodies to ensure that the roles of States and regional arrangements are enhanced. That support to States and regional arrangements can be in the form of facilitating action-oriented discussion platforms, such as our meeting here today, or through facilitating comprehensive peace processes, peace operations, mobilization, the provision of resources and through forging strategic partnerships.

Kenya continues to pursue peace diplomacy by drawing on its own experiences in mediation,

conflict resolution and peacekeeping through bilateral and multilateral engagement with the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union, including the African Peace and Security Council and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), among other arrangements.

The EAC is an important regional arrangement for fostering and maintaining a conducive peaceful and stable atmosphere, which is a prerequisite to social and economic development. On COMESA, it is particularly important to note that regional arrangements have the potential to reconfigure themselves, based on the contextual circumstances, to be more effective. For example, COMESA is a regional economic arrangement within Africa, with a programme on peace and security that contributes to preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding in the subregion. The United Nations should therefore explore the ways in which it can better strategically partner with those subregional arrangements to enhance preventive diplomacy in the region, including the Horn of Africa.

In conclusion, Kenya wishes to reiterate its full commitment to the promotion of preventive diplomacy through a strengthened multilateral framework that is aligned with the norms of international law and the principle of national ownership for a peaceful and stable world. Indeed, that will be achieved only through closer cooperation and good will among States, regional arrangements and the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Estonia.

Mr. Jürgenson (Estonia) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on assuming the presidency of the Security Council this month. We thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate on this crucial topic.

Estonia aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the observer of the European Union (EU).

Today's discussion is very timely. We are witnessing only an increase in conflicts, and yet many peace processes are encountering major difficulties, ceasefire agreements are not respected and an unprecedented number of people are displaced from their homes. It is therefore very important to emphasize that our collective responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations is to do everything in our power to prevent crises through peaceful means.

(*spoke in English*)

The United Nations is the foundation of today's multilateral architecture. Estonia is an advocate of maintaining a strong multilateral system, which we must continue to strengthen. Peace will be sustainable only if we address the root causes of conflict and help create conditions for development. We see clear benefits in a more integrated, flexible and coordinated United Nations. Estonia supports the Secretary-General's reform agenda. It is important to underline that reform agendas on peace and security, management and development should reinforce coherence and the One United Nations and fit-for-purpose vision.

Political will is an essential component of creating and sustaining peace. We, the international community, need to redouble our efforts to find ways to support and incentivize the willingness to move forward in conflict prevention and resolution. Cooperation and coordination with international, regional and subregional stakeholders is crucial to achieving that. African Union-led peace operations, the cooperation in Mali among the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, the Group of Five for the Sahel and Operation Barkhane, and the United Nations-EU partnership on peacekeeping are but a few examples of how such cooperation is necessary and how it makes a difference on the ground.

In order to advance beyond merely reacting to ongoing conflicts, we need to step up and use all available means to prevent them. Studies, including the World Bank and United Nations joint study *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*, have demonstrated that inequality and political, social and economic exclusion are among the most common reasons that lead to internal violent conflict. Therefore, democratic governance, the rule of law, protection of human rights and transparent, accountable State institutions are essential to achieving stability and peace. It is also crucial that we fully recognize and support the role of women and youth in sustaining peace.

I would also like to emphasize the role of the Peacebuilding Commission as a central actor in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the United Nations system. Estonia had the privilege of being a member of the Peacebuilding Commission last year, and we

very much support its broader focus. Additionally, Estonia has supported the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) since 2013. We believe that the PBF is an effective peacebuilding instrument, as it provides catalytic, fast and flexible assistance.

In conclusion, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that the United Nations, as a whole, and the Security Council live up to their responsibilities for securing peace in the world, especially through the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Estonia is determined to make its contribution to that end. That is also the reason why Estonia is running for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council for the term 2020-2021.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Kadiri (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, on the accession of your brotherly and friendly country to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December. We thank you for convening and choosing the topic of this debate, which is presided over by Mr. Amon-Tano, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of your brotherly country.

Indeed, Côte d'Ivoire managed to emerge from a crisis that required the deployment of a peacekeeping operation, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. It is no coincidence that the Operation, whose mandate has ended, is considered a success, given the national ownership that was made possible by the strong and democratic institutions of your country.

I would like to warmly thank Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for presiding over the Security Council yesterday (see S/PV.8413) and for his statement, which highlighted Côte d'Ivoire's experience in building and sustaining peace, as well as the notable economic and social progress of the country. That experience and expertise should serve as models for other countries.

I would also like to commend the Secretary-General for his briefing, which reaffirmed his resolute commitment to peacekeeping. We welcome and fully support that new direction. Moreover, Morocco commends the presence and briefing of the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, which demonstrates the strategic character of the United Nations-AU partnership. We also welcome the briefing by the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, one of the most integrated and committed subregional organizations in the prevention, maintenance and consolidation of peace.

I take this opportunity to honour the memory of former United States President George H. W. Bush, and reiterate the sincere condolences of the Kingdom of Morocco to his family and the American people.

Morocco, a country that has been strongly committed to United Nations peacekeeping since the 1960s, is well placed to know that the nature of conflicts, which are ever-more complex, is significantly evolving, with important consequences for peacekeeping in terms of efficiency, risks and costs, among others. Recent developments in United Nations peacekeeping, particularly the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, respond to that need for adaptation. In that spirit, Morocco has supported the Secretary-General's initiative from the beginning. We welcome the way in which the monitoring of commitments has been initiated, and we will pursue our efforts to fulfil our commitments in that regard.

To ensure its development, peacekeeping with regional and subregional organizations must be strengthened, as mentioned in the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. To that end, we can draw inspiration from several experiences in the past when the two organizations have worked closely, where possible. Peacekeeping also provides leverage for prevention, IN the understanding that a given crisis will not reoccur. In several instances, we have seen that this issue could not be resolved. We hope that the concept of sustainable peace will enable us to remedy the relapses into conflict, of which there are still too many, in particular on our continent.

As I am aware of time allotted to me, I will limit my statement to the following three points.

First, the performance of peacekeeping operations is key to their success. Morocco welcomes the fact that we were able to agree on the issue of performance during the most recent meeting of the Special Committee on Peace Operations, given that we all shoulder the responsibility and that all actors, whether on the ground, at Headquarters or in regional offices, have a part to play. Many factors — such as mandates, training, equipment, rules of engagement, planning, caveats and others — come into play when

we address the issue of performance. They must all be fully integrated into the development, renewal and implementation of peacekeeping mandates.

Secondly, with regard to the strengthening of the United Nations-African Union partnership, many lessons can be learned from recent experiences, such as re-hatting within the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. Africa's sincere desire is to take its future into its own hands, and the commitment of the African regional and subregional organizations prove it. That commitment was underscored by the signature in April 2017 of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. As the Secretary-General mentioned, the Framework seeks to ensure that the two organizations work closely on the basis of the principle of mutual respect and comparative advantage during a conflict cycle in a predictable and strategic manner. Morocco welcomes that commitment and will use its membership of the African Union Peace and Security Council and of the United Nations to support the implementation of the agreement.

Thirdly and lastly, with respect to funding peace support operations of the African Union, the African Union has clearly expressed its commitment to peace on our continent by financing approximately 25 per cent of the cost of the African Union Peace Fund. Moreover, the Fund is currently funded by African States in the amount of $80 million. That reflects the firm and tangible commitment of the African Union, which should be duly appreciated and supported by the international community. In addition, in his 2017 report on options for authorization and support for African Union peace support operations (S/2017/454), the Secretary-General made several proposals in that regard. Regrettably, to date, none has received unanimous support.

Committing to funding African peace operations is an investment in the future and signifies trust. The African Union has made considerable efforts to raise standards in the areas of financial transparency, conduct, discipline and others, in line with several requests made in Security Council resolutions, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the African Union itself. We are all unanimous in underscoring the importance of partnerships. It is now time to provide those partnerships with the means and efficiency expected of them.

In conclusion, I should like to pay tribute to the African countries that are members of the Council, including your own, Mr. President, for their tireless efforts to achieve peace in Africa and in the area of funding African Union peace operations. We remain committed to working with them until a realistic solution that takes into account African aspirations is found. Lastly, I would like to pay tribute all the men and women who conduct their peace operations duties, often in difficult conditions, and in particular to those who paid the ultimate price to achieve peace.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mrs. Rodríguez Camejo (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on assuming the presidency of the Security Council and thank its delegation for convening today's open debate.

Cuba fully supports the statement made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Our country is firmly committed to conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We firmly believe that conflict prevention is the primary responsibility of Member States. We welcome the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union with a view to supporting peacekeeping operations on a continent that provides nearly 50 per cent of peacekeeping personnel and the majority of United Nations police officers to peacekeeping missions.

We take note of the Secretary-General's initiatives to improve the work of the Organization. We support the call for solutions to ensure that United Nations peacebuilding efforts and Security Council-mandated African Union operations can count on predictable and sustainable funding from the Organization. At the same time, we believe that the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and other external actors involved should support and complement the efforts made by national Governments in the area of conflict prevention and conflict resolution, when requested. Such support must be impartial and unconditional and should not interfere in their domestic affairs. It should also fully respect the sovereignty, political independence, authority, leadership and consent of the host State, in accordance with its needs and priorities. The main duty of such actors is to help the host country to settle its

conflict and provide the capacity to do so. It is essential to address and eliminate the root causes of conflict, in particular issues pertaining to social and economic development, while supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Cuba believes that success in the area of conflict prevention and conflict resolution also depends on peacekeeping operations being endowed with clearly defined, realistic and viable mandates, the resources and capabilities required for discharging them and concrete exit strategies. We reiterate that the basic principles of peacekeeping operations — the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force, except in cases of legitimate defence — must be respected and implemented with full respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence of States and non-interference in their domestic affairs.

We are not convinced that operations involving the use of force, above and beyond the basic principles involved, can help improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and the security of their personnel and civilians. On the contrary, the flexible application or reinterpretation of those principles can increase the risk of threats and attacks against United Nations staff, which, regrettably, have occurred in recent years. Cuba reiterates that protection-of-civilians activities should also support the efforts of national authorities and can in no way be used as a pretext for disregarding the principles of the Charter. We underscore that peacekeeping operations are neither geared towards nor equipped to combat terrorism or protect human rights.

With respect to the performance demands on peacekeeping operations, we believe that operations should be deployed with the resources and conditions required to discharge their mandates. Improving and increasing the number of consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and/or police-contributing countries would also allow for a better understanding of the situation and help in the design of mandates. Peacekeeping operations must have the logistical support and resources required. Personnel training should be improved and the capacity of contributing countries enhanced.

Lastly, we believe that conflict prevention and resolution also require the United Nations to ensure an environment of international peace and security that allows for the implementation of sustainable economic and social development strategies. The coordination and consistency of efforts between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, will be essential.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Slovakia.

Mr. Galbavy (Slovakia): Mr. President, I wish to congratulate your country on assuming the presidency of the Security Council and to thank you for convening today's open debate to underscore the need to enhance the cooperation between the Council and regional entities and highlight that sustaining peace requires collective responsibility.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered shortly by the observer of the European Union. Allow me to make a few additional remarks.

We should like to encourage the Security Council to continue identifying ways of enhancing partnerships with various stakeholders and multilateral institutions as well as regional and subregional organizations, with greater emphasis on conflict prevention and the concept of sustaining peace. We should also like to stress that successful implementation of the current reform of the United Nations, together with such further initiatives as the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, are critical to strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to react to future challenges, including in terms of mediation, prevention and sustaining peace. Besides having close proximity to conflicts, regional and subregional organizations have the local networks, knowledge and expertise that allow them to play a leading role in the area of peace and security, including in mediation and settlement of disputes.

Slovakia will chair the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) next year. As the Chairperson-in-Office for 2019, my country will work to build bridges in support of multilateralism, promote conflict prevention and focus on addressing the needs of people on the ground. Over the years, the scope of cooperation between the OSCE and the United Nations has broadened and deepened on a range of matters. We are ready to build on this enhanced collaboration between the two organizations, based on the principles of complementarity, subsidiarity and synergy.

Security sector reform plays a critical role in preventing conflict and sustaining peace. We are encouraged to see that the place of security sector reform in the sustaining peace agenda has been strengthened, based on the constructive discussions Member States have had on peacebuilding and sustaining peace this year. We are of the view that a strong focus on security sector reform and sustaining peace must continue in the work of the United Nations, including that of the Security Council.

Broad frameworks that outline the principles and approaches to support for security sector reform have been put in place by the African Union, the European Union and the OSCE. Accordingly, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the mapping study on enhancing multilateral support for security sector reform undertaken by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces at the request of the United Nations. The study presents the findings on normative frameworks, institutional capacities and operational practices of these three organizations in support of security sector reform processes led by individual States themselves. The report will be presented at next week's meeting of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform. Existing partnerships would benefit from improvement and, where needed, new partnerships should be developed with a view to strengthening the impact of support for international security sector reform on the ground. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the outcome of the second Africa Forum on Security Sector Reform, held on 22 to 24 October at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, on the topic of promoting the continent's security, justice and development agenda.

In conclusion, multilateralism has been broadly recognized as the only way to address the problems facing humankind. The work of regional organizations in the area of peace and security is anchored in *multilateralism and is in the interest* of all stakeholders and Member States.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Al Habib (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr. President, I would like to begin by thanking you for organizing today's open debate and for your valuable remarks. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General and to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for their meaningful input.

Furthermore, I associate myself with the statement delivered by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The most effective contribution that States can make to the prevention and resolution of conflicts is to adhere to the purposes and principles of the United Nations in their relations with other States in word and deed and in good faith. This, first and foremost, requires respecting the political independence and territorial integrity of other States, refraining from the threat or use of force, settling international disputes by peaceful means, and avoiding intervening in the internal matters of States. The emergence of conflicts in certain cases is due to lack of compliance with these important principles on the part of one party or all parties concerned.

Our region has paid and continues to pay a heavy price as certain countries have chosen to resort to force to secure their national interests. If they remain unchecked, such policies will cause new conflicts to emerge or lead to the extension or deterioration of ongoing ones. Moreover, we should stress the important roles that States can play using their good offices to de-escalate tensions, restore confidence, encourage consultations and facilitate negotiations aimed at preventing and resolving conflicts.

With respect to regional arrangements and agencies, Chapter VIII of the Charter has clearly identified the role that can be played by such arrangements or agencies in conflict prevention and resolution. With the consent of concerned parties, Chapter VIII can be borne in mind when dealing with the peaceful settlement of local disputes. It is clear that the effectiveness of the efforts of such agencies and arrangements is dependent to a large extent on their impartiality. Therefore, such arrangements cannot and should not be abused by some that seek to impose their will on the countries of a region. This would be counterproductive, and, of course, it violates the Charter of the United Nations.

In our view, neither can the United Nations disregard the potentials of regional arrangements in conflict prevention and resolution, nor can such arrangements substitute for the United Nations in the discharge of the duties entrusted to it by the Charter. The respective roles of the United Nations and regional arrangements should be considered to be complementary. Similarly, all such activities must be carried out in full conformity

with the Charter, either by the United Nations or by the regional arrangements.

In our view, the effectiveness of the role of the United Nations in conflict prevention and resolution hinges on its fully conforming with the Charter, on consistency in the application of provisions thereof and by avoiding politicization, selective approaches and so on. Ultimately, nothing can better contribute to helping the United Nations effectively fulfil its role in conflict prevention and resolution than the trust and confidence of the concerned parties to the Charter.

Last but not least, there is no alternative for the principles of national ownership and the explicit consent of parties concerned in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Ms. Krisnamurthi (Indonesia): We congratulate Côte d'Ivoire on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December and for convening today's important debate.

We consider the proposed topic for today's debate to be pertinent to the overall workings of the United Nations in terms of addressing various challenges faced by its members. It is well established that regional organizations, because of their particular sense of history and culture and the strong bonds that often exist among countries, not only know the root causes of conflicts best but they are also well positioned to resolve such conflicts peacefully. Indeed, on 20 November, in this Chamber, we heard how the African Union (AU), guided by its Agenda 2063 and its Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative, was making an increasingly significant impact, but we also heard repeated emphasis on strong cooperation and support among the countries of the region, as well as from the United Nations and other international partners (see S/PV.8407).

For its part, Indonesia remains determined to stand shoulder to shoulder with Africa. Our partnership with Africa has only become stronger since the historic Bandung Conference of 1955, thanks to ongoing mutual trust and our respect for African countries as they chart their priorities. The partnership is currently made manifest through numerous multifaceted support programmes.

As a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia has always promoted the role of regional and subregional organizations in fostering peace. Indonesia also strongly supports interregional engagement between South-East Asia and all other regions. With its three pillars of political-security community, economic community, and sociocultural community, ASEAN has truly become an ecosystem of collective peace and prosperity. Relying exclusively on the peaceful settlement of disputes, ASEAN's many mechanisms of cooperation and cross-fertilization under the three pillars have led to virtually no conflict in the region and provided robust peace dividends for development. In that connection, we believe that greater recourse to Chapter VI and Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations holds tremendous potential for making the world more peaceful and stable.

Let me highlight several issues that need to be taken into consideration in order to improve cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional arrangements for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

First, the restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar should place a stronger emphasis on cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. Regular and meaningful consultation among the United Nations and regional organizations is critical. In that regard, we welcome the focus to enhance substantive interaction and practical frameworks between the United Nations and ASEAN, as well as with the AU and other regional organizations.

Secondly, countries in the regions, particularly those that have an important bearing on conflicts, must act responsibly and become part of the solution. One of the observations in the Secretary-General's report on United Nations activities in support of mediation (A/72/115) is that there has been a substantial rise in the regionalization and internationalization of conflicts, complicating their resolution. The zero-sum approach must be renounced. Helping to ensure that peace prevails will ultimately benefit everyone. It is also imperative that the Security Council maintain the practice of dialogue involving all countries concerned with a view to finding a lasting solution to the problem that is acceptable to all the countries involved.

Thirdly, even when regional organizations are fully determined to play their role, they can do only so much if the Security Council does not stand by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law

and international humanitarian law, based on the spirit of multilateralism. Just as regional arrangements must not hold back in advancing credible and regionally owned solutions to sustaining peace, the Council must not hold back in enlisting their support, as well as in upholding the Charter and international law.

Fourthly, adequate resources to ensure that regional mechanisms can meet their commitments are critical. Responding to the proposals of the High Representative for the AU Peace Fund, the Secretary-General has pointed to financial options to support AU-initiated peace-support operations. It is essential that the Council also play its part in addressing that issue. In that regard, we support the draft resolution on financing African Union-led peace-support operations currently being discussed by Council members.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Indonesia will continue to play an active role in helping to facilitate a better harnessing of the regional expertise and networks of influence. Through our upcoming membership of the Security Council, we are also determined to work intensively to place a higher emphasis on dialogue, prevention and principles based on the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Vitrenko (Ukraine) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, on Côte d'Ivoire's assumption of the presidency of the Security Council and to assure you of our full support in your work.

(*spoke in English*)

I would also like to join other speakers in expressing our appreciation for your initiative to convene today's discussion on the role on international actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. The subject is of particular importance to my delegation. I hope that from my statement, members will understand why that is so. First, let me say that Ukraine aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the European Union.

Having faced military aggression for almost five years, Ukraine firmly believes in the need to strengthen the existing instruments and to further improve and fine-tune the applicable practices at the disposal of the international community in order to increase the efficiency of our collective efforts in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. It is especially pertinent in today's world, where it is extremely difficult to achieve a climate of trust and confidence. Instead, bellicose and confrontational policies and actions set the overall tone.

There is no doubt that, as a universal body enjoying a unique level of legitimacy, the United Nations must be as active as possible in preventing potential conflicts, as well as in addressing the ongoing ones. As the previous Secretary-General stated in his report on the United Nations and conflict prevention of 2015 (S/2015/730), while Member States bear the primary responsibility for conflict prevention, the United Nations, with its universal membership, impartiality and the legitimacy derived from the principles of the Charter, has an important and unique role to play. The United Nations has played its role in various regions at different times. However, in a number of cases, it was and still is notably absent. In our opinion, that means that the potential of the United Nations is far from being fully realized. It also means that the Organization must, as a priority, step up its efforts in the areas of both the prevention and the resolution of conflicts.

In that regard, from the perspective of a European country, we would like to see more robust practical cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It is highly commendable that the practice of yearly briefings to the Security Council by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office has been established. Annual staff-level meetings also contribute to building closer ties between the two organizations. However, the practical cooperation is rather limited, while the two sides could benefit greatly from a closer partnership.

It is well known that the OSCE remains at the forefront of international efforts towards the resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has indeed become an indispensable part of the political efforts to find a solution to the conflict. The Mission's reports serve as a valuable source of information about the real situation in the temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine, marked by a significant Russian presence and regular inflows of modern Russian weaponry through the uncontrolled segment of the Ukraine-Russia State border.

The idea of establishing a full-fledged peacekeeping operation in the occupied areas of the Donbas region of Ukraine mandated by the Security Council is still on the table. If it comes to fruition — and we hope

that it does — the eventual multinational presence, in implementing its tasks, will also have to closely coordinate with and support the work of the OSCE, including by creating the proper security conditions for the unhindered implementation of its mandate by the Special Monitoring Mission.

We are convinced that confidence-building measures constitute an important step in the process towards a political and diplomatic resolution of any conflict. From that perspective, the release by the Russian Federation of all Ukrainian political prisoners and illegally detained persons, including the crews of the three Ukrainian naval vessels captured on 26 November in international waters in the Black Sea, will be a crucial benchmark for assessing Moscow's readiness to embark on the path of de-escalation.

In order to make progress towards the resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, it is also necessary to create a solid security foundation, which should involve not only concrete measures and steps in the conflict-affected areas of Donbas but also the de-escalation of the situation in the Black Sea and Azov Sea region. The latter includes the immediate release by Russia of the 24 Ukrainian prisoners of war whom I mentioned and the return of the vessels seized in the Black Sea, as well as restoration of the freedom of navigation through the Kerch Strait and in the Sea of Azov.

We believe that the OSCE and its Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, with the support of the Normandy format countries and other partners, can play an indispensable role to that end. For our part, we are ready for constructive negotiations to find a solution to the conflict. We will also welcome productive and results-oriented contributions to the process from the United Nations, the OSCE, the Normandy format countries and other partners.

In conclusion, my delegation strongly believes that boosting United Nations conflict prevention and resolution capacities, expanding its respective toolbox, and encouraging and supporting its cooperation with relevant regional organizations on such issues is a worthy goal for States Members of the United Nations to pursue.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Singer Weisinger (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Dominican Republic commends the initiative of Côte d'Ivoire to hold this open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. At the same time, we thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States for their briefings this morning.

Today's debate comes at a particularly opportune time, as threats to international peace and security have become increasingly complex, with cross-border elements and regional dimensions. The Dominican Republic believes that the strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations is vital to address the current global security challenges. In addition, the multifaceted partnership between the Security Council and regional organizations could serve as a solid foundation for the future global security agenda.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a zone of peace, which has allowed us to cooperate in the pursuit of sustainable development as one of the pillars of stability. For us, meeting the needs of the people constitutes, essentially, support for peace. That vision guides the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations, the Southern Common Market, the Central American Integration System and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

The Charter of the United Nations underlines the critical importance of conflict prevention as a responsibility of the entire United Nations system. That is the Dominican Republic's interpretation of Chapter VIII of the Charter, which prompts us to promote multilateralism as an effective means for including regional and subregional organizations in addressing crises or conflicts that may affect security and peace. We therefore believe that collective action can be strengthened by involving regional and subregional bodies, particularly in prevention, development and post-conflict work. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its objective of peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies, together with the sustaining peace agenda, is the blueprint for prevention.

In order to overcome the great challenges of our times, it is becoming increasingly imperative to address the immediate and deep-seated causes of conflicts, allowing communities, civil society, Governments,

organizations and other international institutions to participate in a more meaningful way. It is crucial to address the root causes of conflict and instability long before they reach the agenda of the Council. The United Nations must continue its excellent effort to cooperate closely with regional partners, whether in a leadership or support role, to prevent conflict and to maintain international peace and security. We have seen many successful examples of regional organizations responding to emerging crises in order to prevent an escalation into conflict. However, for successful cooperation over the long term, a more systematic arrangement is needed based on recognizing threats and working together to deal with them.

Finally, we must identify and tackle the social roots of violence. As the international community continues to struggle to address destabilizing conflicts and their repercussions, it is necessary to establish guidelines for increased United Nations participation in efforts to address conflicts. Prevention work requires a political commitment on the part of the relevant actors to deal with situations that, due to their nature, pose the risk of a resurgence of or a return to conflict. In that regard, the Dominican Republic reiterates its commitment to international peace and security, which is the objective towards which we must work together so that the United Nations can consistently fulfil its fundamental tasks.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Gad (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank your country, Mr. President, for organizing this important open debate, which deals with one of the highest priorities on the agenda of the international community, namely, the issue of conflict prevention and resolution. That topic is being discussed in the context of reforming the international peace and security system of the United Nations and promoting the concept of preventive diplomacy.

We thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States for their valuable briefings this morning. We also associate ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

There is no doubt that Côte d'Ivoire embodies one of the success stories in the maintenance of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes through the utilization of available United Nations tools. That begins with the activation of peacekeeping mechanisms, followed by peacebuilding and strengthening reconstruction and development, and culminates in the achievement of peace and its sustainability. President Alassane Ouattara described that positive example in detail when he presided over yesterday's productive meeting (see S/PV.8413).

We all feel that we need more support for the efforts being made in Africa to ensure a more integrated and comprehensive approach in dealing with the challenges and the root causes of the problems. In that regard, I would like to mention that Cairo stands ready to host the headquarters of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development.

Egypt is also preparing to preside over the African Union at the beginning of next year. We express our commitment to leading the efforts of the African Union in order to establish a real partnership with the United Nations and Africa's main partners, with a view to supporting a more coherent and practical approach in dealing with the countless challenges facing the continent.

Egypt is especially committed to the African Union concerning participation in revitalizing and adopting a framework of action for the African Union and its policies with regard to post-conflict reconstruction and development. We seek to encourage an approach that focuses on sustaining peace in order to ensure that we can adopt a long-term vision for dealing with the challenges facing the relevant African States.

We believe that a partnership between the African Union and the United Nations based on a stronger sense of ownership by the African Union would help to advance the implementation of the relevant United Nations plans and strategies. We must consider those plans and strategies as a whole and as a comprehensive framework that aligns the various initiatives and strategies focusing on Africa's real needs and priorities. In an attempt to achieve that, Egypt held a workshop on the Sahel region in Cairo on 15 and 16 October in order to entrench that approach at the regional and international levels. Various relevant stakeholders from the Group of Five for the Sahel met with representatives of the African Union Commission, the United Nations and other major partners. Egypt continues to play a constructive role and to be active as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission.

We would like to highlight the following points for the Council's consideration.

First, the complex, multidimensional and regional nature of the challenges facing peace and security in the world today, in particular in Africa, makes it all the more difficult to move from short-term stability to long-term peace and development.

Second, the real challenge facing us is how to translate political and strategic commitments into concrete programmes and practical projects that deal with the root causes of instability, while focusing particularly on marginalized border areas in conflict zones.

Third, international assistance must prioritize pilot programmes aimed at strengthening institutions and national and local capacities in the areas of security and socioeconomic development. Such an approach would ensure sustainability and feasibility of collective investment in international peace.

Fourth, we should adopt an approach that focuses on people, including all local communities and population centres, and gives priority to the empowerment of women and young people, while ensuring the inclusion of all sectors of society in the peacemaking operations and their engagement in the future of their country.

Fifth, despite is extreme importance with regard to saving lives and meeting urgent demands, humanitarian aid must not be to the detriment of technical cooperation aimed at the capacity-building of the relevant countries. Once again, long-term sustainability requires investments in the areas of capacity-building and governance.

Sixth, partnerships and resources must be based on long-term strategies for reconstruction and development. It is therefore important to mobilize and allocate predictable and sustainable resources in order to ensure the implementation of peacebuilding programmes.

Seventh and lastly, as Cairo prepares to inaugurate the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre, we stress that the new Centre should be a foundation for planning and for supporting partners.

In conclusion, in September my country endorsed the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, as part of the Secretary-General's Action for Peace initiative, as well as the Kigali Principles on the Protection of Civilians. That is an affirmation of Egypt's continued commitment to achieving more effective peacekeeping operations in the future.

In November, the Foreign Ministry of Egypt and the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution hosted a high-level regional conference on improving the performance of peacekeeping operations with the participation of senior United Nations officials. Its goal was to build on the Declaration of Shared Commitments and to provide troop-contributing countries with the opportunity to participate in the relevant discussions on developing peace operations. Under its chairmanship of the African Union next year, Egypt will continue to focus on deepening the strategic partnership with the United Nations in the areas of peacebuilding, peacekeeping and post-conflict development and reconstruction in Africa. We look forward to further international cooperation in order to pool efforts for achieving peace, stability and security in our continent and throughout the world.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Duque Estrada Meyer (Brazil): I thank the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire for organizing this open debate. It provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the roles of the United Nations, regional organizations and Member States in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Let me start with the role of the United Nations, whose peacekeepers are broadly seen as one of the most effective tools available to help prevent and resolve conflicts and promote international peace and security, as reiterated in the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in the context of the alliance for peacekeeping. The Action for Peacekeeping initiative has already received extensive support from the United Nations membership and partners. The Declaration also reiterates the principle of the primacy of politics and emphasizes the need for innovative partnerships with regional organizations. In our view, those two recommendations reinforce one another. Regional organizations often provide a unique perspective of conflict dynamics, and taking their views into account can help us to strengthen our prevention and mediation capacities. To mention but a few examples in our own region, Brazil highlights the

important role that the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community can play and has played in ensuring peaceful relations in the region, including in cooperation with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. We also commend the engagement of regional and subregional actors in peace processes in other regions, such as in South Sudan, Burundi and the Central African Republic, among others, in Africa. Those are sound examples of how regional arrangements can contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The notion that the United Nations should ensure peace and prevent conflict is deeply rooted in the identity of our Organization. It translates, for instance, into the three basic principles of peacekeeping — the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force — which are deemed one of the reasons for the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In his most recent briefings, the Secretary-General clearly made his point in arguing that regional organizations might be a more suitable tool for addressing situations that require peace enforcement and counter-terrorism activities. Under exceptional circumstances, the Security Council can and has authorized Member States and regional organizations to use force in order to achieve peace. Brazil has consistently argued that any such actions must be judicious and proportionate and adhere to international law. We emphasize the need to remain vigilant so as to avoid causing unnecessary harm to civilian populations, to monitor the situation and to require periodic reporting. We therefore welcome initiatives such as resolution 2391 (2017), which calls for the Group of Five for the Sahel States (G-5 Sahel) to uphold international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as to take into account a gender perspective in all G-5 Sahel Joint Force operations. We are following the Secretary-General's reports on the operationalization of that initiative and encourage the Council to continue to pay attention to those aspects whenever it considers authorizing third parties to use force.

In their role as troop/police-contributors, Member States have a responsibility to provide peacekeeping operations with disciplined, well-trained and motivated personnel. On that front, Brazil has been engaged in the predeployment training of African military engineers through triangular partnership projects. The Brazilian Peace Operations Joint Training Centre maintains several cooperation projects with troop-contributing countries, with a view to exchanging best practices in peacekeeping operations and to improving the predeployment training of peacekeepers.

Another task attributed to Member States is ensuring that all peacekeeping operations pursuing mandates that were established by the Security Council are adequately funded. That is particularly critical in the context of the expanding mandates and responsibilities of peacekeeping missions, combined with increasing security concerns with regard to the troops on the ground. Permanent members of the Council should therefore be expected to assume a larger share of the responsibility in that regard, as reflected in the current peacekeeping scale of assessment. It is not reasonable to expect developing countries to have additional financial responsibilities for the Security Council's decisions without the corresponding reform of its composition.

Allow me to reiterate Brazil's long-standing support for non-military means to address security challenges. As stated by the Secretary-General in one of his previous reports: "It costs far more to pick up the pieces after crisis than it does to prevent crisis." (*S/2018/525, p. 1*)

The challenge ahead of us is to shift from a crisis-oriented approach to long-term engagement aimed at promoting self-sustaining cycles of peace and development. It is essential in that regard that we remain committed to the continuous strengthening of the peacebuilding architecture, in particular to the need of achieving a quantum leap in the Peacebuilding Fund. In our experience of chairing the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, we can testify that creating lasting peace is necessarily a collaborative endeavour. As such, it often requires external partners, regional and subregional organizations, Government authorities and local actors to work together.

United Nations resolutions often state that Member States bear the primary responsibility for preventing conflict, protecting civilians and sustaining peace. But when we evoke the principle of national ownership, we should not be oblivious to the important roles of the international community, international and regional organizations and the United Nations in collaborating with Member States in their efforts to realize lasting peace and sustainable development.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Mr. Serge Christiane, Acting Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Christiane (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Due to the trauma and suffering caused by conflicts around the world, since the first day of his mandate, the Secretary-General has called for greater diplomatic efforts to put an end to crises. This year, he also reminded us that prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding are and will remain top priorities for the entire United Nations system. In response to that call, we have focused our efforts on the critical importance of conflict prevention during several high-level meetings, such as the high-level debate on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, as well as the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit. In the political declaration that we unanimously adopted on that occasion (General Assembly resolution 73/1), we expressed our full support for the work of the United Nations and said that we would make every possible effort to support peace processes, conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development. We also commended the establishment of the High-level Advisory Board on Mediation and intend to support its future contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security and the prevention of armed conflict, in particular by exercising its good offices.

Achieving peace and conflict prevention and the promotion and protection of human rights are priorities for the European Union. Those principles are at the heart of multilateralism. In that context, I would like to focus on the first guiding question in the concept note prepared by the Council presidency (S/2018/1064, annex), which looks at how the United Nations, States and subregional and regional organizations can strengthen their cooperation on the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in practice.

The strategic vision of the European Union is to support the multilateral system and join forces with our partners through international cooperation. The European Union and the United Nations have a long history of cooperation in the area of conflict prevention, including through support for mediation. We have initiated a dialogue on conflict prevention, focusing on both thematic and geographical issues. We have also engaged in similar dialogues with other partners, including the African Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In October, the United Nations Mediation Support Unit and the European Union Mediation Support Team jointly organized an informal seminar on mediation support structures in international organizations. That allowed us to take stock, exchange experiences and discuss the possibilities for joint missions.

We continue to assess the complementarity of our actions with a view to improving their impact on the ground. Those priorities are within the broader context of the partnership between the European Union and the United Nations, within which we continue to promote the rules-based international order as the most effective means of strengthening conflict prevention and resolution. As part of our strategic cooperation, the twenty-fourth meeting of the United Nations-European Union Steering Committee on Crisis Management concluded last week, having identified eight priority areas for action over the coming three years. Those priorities are aligned with United Nations reform efforts, in particular the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The pre-eminence of politics is the common theme of our partnership, with conflict prevention as a guiding principle. In that regard, strengthening the use of preventive instruments in peace operations, such as mediation, early-warning systems, consistent political messages and strategic communication are high on the agenda. In all those priority areas, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, international humanitarian law and the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda remain essential.

Despite all those efforts, there is room to improve efficiency. We have all nurtured strong relationships with international and regional organizations, such as the African Union. Partnerships are a catalyst for achieving our common goals. Therefore, at the trilateral meeting between the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, our leaders decided to increase and broaden trilateral cooperation at the

political, economic and operational levels in the area of peace and security, including conflict prevention and mediation; on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063; as well as with a view to ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth, the promotion of human rights and the fight against climate change.

Together, we will seek to translate our common priorities into concrete actions by strengthening our cooperation and making it more operational, as recommended at the joint meeting between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Political and Security Committee of the Council of the European Union in October. Over the past year, the Security Council has adopted mandates calling for joint assessments of climate security risks, particularly in Africa. Similarly, both the African Union and the European Union have confirmed the link between climate and security. By working together across regional and international organizations to analyse and assess risks, we can ensure that we are using the same benchmarks.

Instability is no longer the result of open conflict alone, but increasingly of the unmet political and economic expectations of a young and growing population, compounded by challenges such as violent extremism and organized crime. We must continue to focus on empowering women and young people and bolstering social cohesion, while responding to precarious situations. We must also focus more on strengthening the link between peacebuilding and the participation of local populations, particularly through civil society organizations on the ground. Our action must adapt to that new reality and take into account the complex dynamics of conflict by adopting an integrated approach that applies to all phases of the conflict cycle.

Beyond our peacebuilding aspirations, we must also aim to make peace sustainable, particularly in the pursuit of our 2030 Agenda commitments. Inclusive economic development and building resilience are at the heart of prevention. Our cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank on joint recovery and peacebuilding assessments in a number of post-conflict countries is a promising development in that regard.

The European Consensus on Development, in line with the 2030 Agenda, considers peace as one of the main priorities. The European Union-United Nations joint communiqué issued in September emphasizes strengthening the link between humanitarian assistance and development and its relationship with sustaining peace. Joint efforts by the European Union and the United Nations must address the root causes of conflict and promote economic and social stability.

The new momentum for United Nations reform seeks to ensure better coordination between the pillars of peace and security, development and human rights. In that context, we attach great importance to the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. We also stress the need to make maximum use of the unifying role of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as its advisory role to the Security Council.

The Charter of the United Nations encourages us to take effective collective action and to pursue international cooperation to strengthen universal peace. To that end and for the benefit of present and future generations, we would like to once again stress the need to work towards establishing new partnerships in an effective and coherent way and in close collaboration with key international and regional partners.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ghana.

Mrs. Pobee (Ghana): Ghana joins previous speakers in thanking the Côte d'Ivoire presidency of the Security Council for convening this high-level meeting on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, a theme that is at the very heart of the Charter of the United Nations.

We all have a primary responsibility as Member States to individually and collectively pursue the overriding moral, political and humanitarian imperative of preventing the outbreak, continuation and escalation of or relapse into conflict. The complex, multidimensional and transboundary nature of conflicts today, as well as new and emerging threats to peace and security, call for enhancing strategic and operational partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations. As implied under Chapter VIII of the Charter, the responsibility for peace and security must be shared, and the success of our joint efforts will depend to a large extent on our political commitment to more effectively utilize the tools provided in the Charter under ,egional and subregional arrangements.

Joint collaborative efforts between the United Nations and regional and subregional arrangements have proved successful in conflict prevention and resolution. Your own country, Mr. President, is a glowing example of such successful outcomes. Such efforts have been particularly instrumental in dealing with difficult political transitions, defusing tensions and encouraging political dialogues ahead of highly contentious elections, resolving electoral crises and ending political deadlocks.

The conclusion in April 2017 of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security is therefore a welcome development. The Joint Framework provides a platform for regular consultations, joint horizon scanning, joint assessment and good offices missions, joint or similar messaging and mutual capacity enhancement towards conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. The memorandum of understanding between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, together with the African Union's post-conflict reconstruction and development policy, will foster collaborative actions that are critical for sustaining peace. It is my delegation's hope that those initiatives will benefit from greater support from Member States in order to ensure maximum benefits for peacebuilding.

In a similar vein, the Organization's multifaceted engagement and partnership with the Economic Community of West African States has effectively made the subregional body a vital partner in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and resolution, as well as in peacebuilding and the strengthening of regional capacities. We call for the strengthening of that partnership through regular thematic intergovernmental dialogues on critical areas for the West Africa subregion.

Cooperation between the United Nations, regional arrangements and Member States in the maintenance of peace and security has been more pronounced in the area of peacekeeping. All Member States, and particularly troop- and police-contributing countries, are important stakeholders in peacekeeping. In that regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative, which is aimed at enhancing partnerships and efficiencies in that important pillar. Burden-sharing is paramount for success, and we wish to add our voice to calls for enhancing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peace support operations authorized by the Security Council.

My delegation also wishes to take this opportunity to call for greater harmonization of standards between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations as a way of improving transitions from regional operations to United Nations-supervised missions. Increased systematic coordination and consultation on policies, guidance and training standards would ensure coherence in all phases, from the planning to the drawdown of operations.

In conclusion, we wish to stress the importance of fostering political dialogue, national reconciliation, democratic governance, justice and accountability, respect for human rights and the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security. A comprehensive approach to sustaining peace must include sustainable development, with inclusiveness at the heart of our efforts.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Romania.

Mr. Jinga (Romania): Before I begin my statement, allow me, on behalf of Romania, to convey our heartfelt condolences to the American people and the Government of the United States on the passing of former President George H. W. Bush.

(*spoke in French*)

I wish to commend Côte d'Ivoire for having taken the initiative to organize this open debate on the role of States, regional organizations and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union. I would now like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Prevention is a pivotal instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security, a concept that lies at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations. Prevention is also a quiet and often overlooked strategy, as media attention most often focuses on the conflicts that have erupted and not on those that have been averted. In this connection, I wish to thank the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, for his commitment to making conflict prevention one of his priorities and thereby giving it the visibility it deserves.

Romania has 100 years of experience in multilateral diplomacy. My country was a founding member of the

League of Nations in 1919 and, since joining the United Nations in 1955, has invested heavily in preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and mediation. Over the past 27 years, Romania has contributed more than 12,500 police officers, military and close protection officers to 25 United Nations peacekeeping missions. Today, Romania is among the European Union's highest contributors of police officers under the flag of the United Nations and is the sole State Member of the United Nations to provide close protection units for senior dignitaries in high-risk areas.

The particular importance that my country attaches to the subject we are discussing today is also reflected in the fact that Romania chairs the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as in our priorities as Chair. These include promoting a regional approach in the work of the Commission and strengthening partnerships with regional and subregional organizations — particularly the African Union — and with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, as well as with civil-society organizations. Equally important is the implementation of peacebuilding and peacekeeping by lending support to conflict-affected countries throughout the entire conflict cycle — from prevention to reconstruction and development. Here I would add that prevention not only saves lives but also constitutes a cost-effective strategy.

As Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Romania has consistently supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and all actions aimed at reforming and improving the peacebuilding and peacekeeping architecture to ensure better coordination among the pillars, from the conflict-prevention stage to the peacebuilding stage. Romania has also promoted a more visible role for the Peacebuilding Commission as a liaison between the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It has also striven to improve cooperation among these three United Nations organs to ensure more coherent peacebuilding efforts.

Above all, we believe that preventive diplomacy requires inclusion. In this context and in terms of cross-cutting issues, we wish to highlight the importance of the participation of women and young people in mediation processes. No progress can be made without their involvement.

We are also pleased that Côte d'Ivoire is drawing attention to the subject of cooperation with regional organizations, as Romania submitted the first draft resolution on cooperation with regional organizations, namely, resolution 1631 (2005), which was adopted under the Romanian presidency of the Security Council. This resolution was based on our firm belief that the creation of complementarity and subsidiarity between the United Nations and regional undertakings would lead to their mutual strengthening.

As Romania prepares to assume the presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 January 2019, we remain convinced of the need for the promotion of cooperation with regional organizations.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Romania, as a candidate country for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 2020-2021, to preventive diplomacy in all its aspects.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Denktaş (Turkey): The number of conflicts in the world is on the rise, and they are increasingly of an intra-State nature. Asymmetrical threats are more serious than ever and transcend national borders.

The various root causes of conflict can be adequately addressed only through a combination of tools. In the prevention and resolution of conflicts, a strengthened partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, is indispensable. We must do better to strengthen the bonds the United Nations shares with regional bodies, which requires strategic, long-term and mutually beneficial efforts.

Turkey fully supports the leading role of the United Nations, and we are committed to expanding the partnership of the United Nations with regional organizations in conflict-prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

A large portion of the Council's agenda deals with peace and security challenges in Africa. We are pleased to note that the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations has been strengthened, enhanced and deepened, especially in the last decade. We also welcome the increasing coordination and coherence between the African Union and subregional organizations on the continent, whose efforts will further consolidate African leadership and ownership

in overcoming the challenges that Africa faces. The United Nations-AU partnership can be further intensified by strengthening the institutionalization of this relationship.

Besides the African Union, organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, NATO, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Organization of American States all have important roles to play in ensuring peace and stability, together with the United Nations.

There are a number of principles that we deem important when it comes to the engagement of the United Nations with regional organizations. First, effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations must be rooted in respect for regional processes and contexts. Secondly, every conflict situation has its own circumstances, and no organization can impose a one-size-fits-all approach to the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Thirdly, we can benefit from the experiences of different regional settings to improve our problem-solving practices, and lastly, we need more innovative and flexible partnerships that draw on the strengths of the respective organizations and also take account of their comparative advantages.

We see this open debate as a good opportunity to take stock of what we have achieved so far and reflect on the way forward. We hope that the ideas expressed today will be helpful in paving the way for a strengthened, enhanced and mutually beneficial cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. We thank the Côte d'Ivoire presidency for having organized it.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Ms. Boucher (Canada) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to join other speakers in thanking Côte d'Ivoire for having organized this open debate, as well as yesterday's debate, which was presided over by President Ouattara (see S/PV.8413). I can think of no more critical subject to discuss in this Chamber.

The prevention of violent conflict is at the heart of both the Charter of the United Nations and of the rules-based international order that we have built together. Together, we have achieved considerable success in preventing and resolving conflicts. This is especially clear in the case of West Africa. Fifteen years ago, the Council was seized of crises such as the civil wars in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. Today, the last peacekeepers have withdrawn, and those three countries are no longer on the Council's agenda. This is a story of determination and perseverance, as demonstrated by the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union and its member States. It is a story of partnership. As the response to the crisis in the Gambia demonstrated, when action among regional and international partners is closely coordinated, such partnerships deliver results.

Canada recognizes the important contributions and key leadership of African States, the African Union (AU) and subregional organizations in improving the effectiveness of United Nations peace operations and peacebuilding more generally. We welcome the development of regional and subregional early-warning mechanisms across the continent. We welcome also the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and encourage its full implementation.

We are committed to contributing to capacity-building in African countries and to working together to develop African-led solutions to increase the impact of efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts. Furthermore, we believe that, beyond the annual joint consultative meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, further opportunities exist to strengthen cooperation between the Councils, including through joint field visits.

Together, we can accomplish more. This is why we encourage efforts to find more predictable, flexible and sustainable financing mechanisms for African-led peace operations, and we hope to see concrete progress on developing such mechanisms.

(*spoke in English*)

Fundamentally, preventing conflict and sustaining peace is about building trust between Governments and their peoples. Such trust cannot be established haphazardly. Only by fostering inclusive institutions that bring in and amplify diverse voices — including those of women, young people and indigenous, ethnic and religious minorities — can meaningful and sustainable peace take hold.

Peace cannot be imposed from the outside, and it cannot be built overnight. But the United Nations, its Member States and regional organizations have a critical role to play in helping Governments respond to the needs of their populations and protect their human rights, and in helping populations to hold their Governments to account.

On the ground, in Mali, Canada is assisting the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, working with the Institut malien de recherche-action pour la paix and Interpeace, to better understand the conflict dynamics and sources of resilience in Ansongo, Bourem and Gao. This process has involved consultation with local authorities, women's groups, youth groups and security and defence forces with a view to finding consensus-based solutions to the priorities for peace as they define them. Better understanding between communities builds trust; trust builds confidence; and trusting, confident communities build peace together.

Finally, in order for the international community itself to remain a trusted partner in conflict prevention, our own institutions need to reform to ensure greater accountability, transparency, predictability and coherence.

Canada strongly supports the Secretary-General's vision on conflict prevention and sustaining peace. We welcome his plans to restructure the United Nations peace and security architecture, his 2018 report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (S/2018/43) and the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The United Nations-World Bank *Pathways for Peace* report sets forward a compelling, evidence-based case for these reforms, and we endorse without reservation its recommendations to [illegible] implementation.

As a stalwart defender of multilateral approaches to addressing conflict, Canada is committed to working together, with the Council, to ensure that our institutions and approaches embody the very best that the international community has to offer. Should we be elected to serve on the Security Council for the 2021-2022 term, Council members can be sure that Canada will continue to work tirelessly towards this goal.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Aliyev (Azerbaijan): At the outset, I would like to thank the presidency of the Security Council, held by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, for having convened this important open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statement made earlier today by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

The prevention of conflict is critical to ensuring a peaceful international environment. In a number of situations, efforts to that end have successfully reduced tensions and helped prevent bloodshed. Furthermore, important progress has been achieved in enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements across a full range of areas — from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights.

However, serious challenges remain, and my country's practical experience of facing armed aggression, foreign military occupation and ethnic cleansing is illustrative in that regard. Despite Security Council resolutions, demands and condemnation by the international community and ongoing conflict-settlement efforts within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Nagorno Karabakh region and seven other surrounding districts of Azerbaijan remain under unlawful military occupation, even as deliberate actions are being carried out in the occupied territories with a view to securing their colonization and annexation, in clear violation of international law.

As the concept note (S/2018/1064, annex) rightly emphasizes, many contemporary conflicts are internal crises, which in a growing number of cases are taking place in environments where the situation is severely exacerbated by new threats and challenges. At the same time, the nature of conflict has changed significantly over the years. It is abundantly clear that the boundary between intra-State and inter-State conflicts has become increasingly blurred in recent decades.

The most frequent and complicated instances include attempts by States to camouflage aggression and disguise their role in fuelling conflicts on the territories of other States. This obviously imposes an additional burden on the international system and mechanisms and on the various regional and subregional organizations

dealing with conflict prevention and resolution. Against this background, in some instances regional arrangements are clearly misused by those who violate international law as a shield for consolidating military gains and undermining efforts to achieve solutions to regional conflicts and other security problems.

The concept note raises a fundamental question as to how cooperation between the United Nations, States and regional and subregional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts can be strengthened in practice. Most importantly, consistency should be maintained in identifying ways and means for the international community to respond to crises and conflicts, as well as to any apparent distortion of international legal norms and principles. Needless to say, the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations as well as accountability must be part and parcel of the collective efforts towards that end.

The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations constitute a foundational normative framework in international relations. There is no alternative to commonly agreed rules and their universal application, including in particular with regard to the resolution of conflicts, whatever their distinct root causes and characteristics.

The fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States based on full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the inviolability of their international borders are prerequisites for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security and are at the core of economic cooperation and sustainable development.

It is our common duty to promote and support a reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system. The involvement of States and regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations and their close cooperation with the United Nations must be reinforced and integrated into a reformed peace architecture. My country, Azerbaijan, will continue to be an active partner in that process.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Mr. Imnadze (Georgia): Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to Côte d'Ivoire for its presidency and for convening today's debate.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the observer of the European Union. I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Today's topic allows us to brainstorm on how to make the best use of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which addresses regional arrangements. Indeed, regional organizations naturally have a deeper expertise and understanding of regional security matters.

With respect to our region, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has at its disposal a useful toolbox for preventive and early-warning purposes, including its mechanisms, such as the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The Council of Europe also has an important instrument at its disposal — the Commissioner for Human Rights. I can speak from country's own experience. For almost two decades, Georgia has enjoyed very fruitful engagement and cooperation with the United Nations and the OSCE. They both have done invaluable work in terms of conflict prevention and resolution in the now occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia.

Both the United Nations and the OSCE deployed their missions in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region — the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the OSCE Mission to Georgia, respectively — and their work was vital on the ground. Ironically, both were discontinued by a permanent member of the Security Council, which cast a veto in a similar manner, thereby creating a vacuum of international presence.

Luckily, the European Union stepped in and the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) was dispatched to monitor the situation on the ground. While the importance of the presence of the EUMM cannot be underestimated, unfortunately it is yet unable to fulfil its mandate, since the Russian Federation, as the occupying Power, is blocking access to the occupied regions.

The United Nations, the European Union and the OSCE are complementing each other as the three co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions — the format launched as a result and to implement the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement between Russia and Georgia. The Geneva International Discussions is a valuable instrument to address security and humanitarian needs on the ground but, like the

EUMM, the full potential of the Geneva International Discussions is yet to be unlocked. Progress on key issues remains elusive due to the lack of political will on the part of Russian Federation, while the work of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms, under the umbrella of the Geneva International Discussions, is becoming unduly politicized and hampered. It is crucial to safeguard the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms and return without further delay to the usual work setting, in full respect of the founding principles and ground rules.

Lastly, given the close interlinkages and mutually reinforcing nature of security, development and human rights, strengthening engagement on prevention between the Human Rights Council and the wider United Nations system is of vital importance. In that context, we regard cooperation under agenda item 10 of the Human Rights Council, on technical assistance and capacity-building, as an extremely practical and efficient tool for preventive purposes.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Elnour (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to express my condolences to the delegation and the people of the United States on the passing away of former President George Herbert Walker Bush.

I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. President, and your sisterly country on presiding over the Security Council during December. I congratulate China as well on its able leadership of the Council in November. I would like to thank you, Sir, for convening today's open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and for the concept note that you have prepared in that regard (see S/2018/1064, annex). I also thank the Secretary-General and Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as well as Mr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, for their valuable briefings this morning.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

We would like to add the following comments in our national capacity and highlight the role of the Sudan and members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in peace processes in our region.

Today's open debate comes at a critical time for my country. The Sudan has made great efforts to settle conflicts in neighbouring countries — the Republic of South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Libya — because we believe in the importance of peace and the relationship between peace and security in the Sudan and peace and security in neighbouring countries. Today's meeting is also being held as IGAD members, including the Sudan, have stepped up their efforts to achieve peace in the Republic of South Sudan. The phase of implementing the revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan has begun. That Agreement was signed on 12 September in Addis Ababa, after considerable efforts by IGAD, led by the Sudan, and intensive negotiations that took place in Khartoum. We hope that the Security Council will support our efforts and those of IGAD and the African Union to achieve peace in those sisterly States — the Republic of South Sudan, Libya and the Central African Republic.

We stress the importance of strengthening coordinating regional and national efforts, on one hand, and international efforts, on the other, to achieve peace, stability and development, and we stress the importance of avoiding any negative repercussions in neighbouring countries. There was a divergence of views in 2011 between the African Union and certain permanent members of the Security Council with regard to the situation in one of the African countries. That divergence of views had dangerous repercussions in that country, which continue to this day. Over the past few months, and as the peace process in South Sudan reached an advanced stage, there was another divergence of views between IGAD members, on one hand, and certain Security Council members, on the other, with respect to the usefulness of sanctions and their impact on the peace process in South Sudan. Sanctions were imposed by the Council. My country hopes that, in the coming weeks, the Security Council will support the requests made by IGAD to review and expand the mandate of the Regional Protection Force in South Sudan, in order for it to play its role in supporting the implementation of the revitalized Agreement in South Sudan.

There is an urgent need to strengthen coordination and cooperation among the Security Council, the African Union Peace and Security Council and IGAD to support the peace process in South Sudan. The two Councils and IGAD must organize joint field visits

to South Sudan and the countries of the region and strengthen trilateral cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and IGAD during the upcoming period. We also stress the need to promote the presence of Security Council members in South Sudan and in the region so as to closely follow developments on the ground and cooperate with national and regional partners in support of the implementation of the revitalized Agreement.

The signing of the revitalized Agreement is just the first step towards achieving peace and stability in the sisterly Republic of South Sudan. Many steps and challenges remain ahead, which will require strengthened coordination and cooperation among all national and regional partners on a number of issues. They include national reconciliation, social cohesion and transitional justice; the return of refugees and internally displaced persons; reconstruction and development; building the capacity of State institutions; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as building the capacity of security institutions; and providing job opportunities for young people.

With regard to the special relations between the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, in addition to the many ties between the peoples of the two countries, as well as the link between their peace processes, there is a need for the international community, especially the United Nations and the Security Council, to support the efforts of the two countries in order to strengthen their cross-border cooperation and to build and rehabilitate the basic infrastructure linking the two countries. That includes roads, railways, riverine transport and electricity, in addition to supporting the efforts made by the two countries to complete the peace process in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur states by putting pressure on the rebel movements that continue to obstruct the peace process, and by actively participating in the high-level event on transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and development in Darfur.

In conclusion, we have a historic opportunity to make significant progress in the Republic of South Sudan, strengthen regional cooperation and build a better future for IGAD countries, especially in the wake of the ongoing positive developments in the Horn of Africa region. My country's delegation hopes that the Security Council will send a message to the international community in support of the countries of the region in that regard. The existing grave challenges require concerted regional and international efforts in order to achieve our desired objective. Let us therefore work together to create a new success story in East Africa to be added to the other success stories in Côte d'Ivoire and its neighbours Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Moraru (Republic of Moldova): Allow me to first to thank you, Mr. President, for convening today's open debate on the role of States, regional arrangements and the United Nations in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

The Republic of Moldova aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union and would like to add some remarks from a national perspective.

It is widely recognized that the nature of contemporary conflicts is changing rapidly and has become more complex. The prevention and resolution of conflicts, particularly protracted ones, is not the sole responsibility or prerogative of one multilateral organization or one country. It is a responsibility shared by the entire international community. The Republic of Moldova fully supports the further development of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in that field.

The United Nations and regional arrangements can work together more effectively by gathering, consolidating and sharing good practices and lessons learned. Effective conflict prevention and resolution requires building coherent and proactive partnerships between the United Nations and regional arrangements. The focus on conflict prevention and resolution is already a notable feature of the existing partnerships between the United Nations and some regional arrangements, including the European Union and the African Union. In line with their respective mandates and comparative advantages, the United Nations and regional arrangements should strive to share the burden of their efforts by pooling resources and creating new synergies. We encourage the establishment of coordination mechanisms at the Secretariat level to operationalize cooperation among organizations in the field of conflict prevention and resolution.

The current restructuring of the peace and security pillar of the United Nations, with conflict prevention and sustaining peace at the core, offers an excellent

opportunity to enhance the Secretariat's capacities to work on regional issues and strengthen the interaction between the United Nations and the regional arrangements. We commend the Secretary-General's efforts in that direction and thank him for his insightful briefing today and related reports.

In pursuing their agendas and applying their distinctive approaches to conflict prevention and resolution, regional arrangements and their member States must act in good faith and in strict compliance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular when it comes to ensuring respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States.

States have the primary responsibility for conflict prevention, a prerogative that has been stressed several times in Security Council resolutions. Nonetheless, the constructive potential of regional organizations in that area is often undermined by the limited interests of individual members that use their authority to obstruct important initiatives or to limit the scope of cooperation between regional arrangements and the United Nations that could be valuable to settlement processes. It is our firm belief that there is much more that can be drawn from regional partnerships, so long as all actors involved abide by Charter principles.

The deteriorating security situation and lack of progress in the settlement of protracted conflicts in the post-Soviet space cannot go unnoticed. In that regard, a question arises as to the actual role and effectiveness of relevant regional arrangements and their coordination efforts with the United Nations. We believe that no conflict in the world should be disregarded by the United Nations, irrespective of whether or not they are on the Security Council's agenda. The protracted conflict situation in the eastern part of the Republic of Moldova — a problem that is also complicated by an illegal foreign military presence on our national territory — is one such conflict.

By adopting a resolution in June on the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian military forces from the territory of the Republic of Moldova (resolution 72/282), the General Assembly renewed the linkage between regional efforts at the level of Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the matter and on the United Nations platform. The withdrawal of foreign troops is essential for creating the prerequisites for conflict prevention and conflict resolution in the Republic of Moldova.

The lack of progress in the settlement of protracted conflicts and the continued illegal foreign military presence on the national territories of some Member States require not only more direct involvement from the appropriate United Nations bodies and regional organizations but also common action that takes into account both the prevention and resolution aspects of the problems. We clearly need productive partnerships that can prevent conflicts, address the root causes of conflicts and end them.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and regional entities is not merely an alternative approach to multilateralism. It is a necessity of today's world, requiring all those involved to apply United Nations principles and call for accountability when they are violated.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

Mr. Dang (Viet Nam): I would like to express our appreciation to Cote d'Ivoire's presidency of the Security Council for organizing today's very important debate. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the President of the Economic Community of West African States for their valuable insights.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Vietnam shares the view of other Member States on the primary importance of conflict prevention in all peace processes and the need to strengthen the cooperation between and among the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and States. We are pleased to see that the United Nations, including the Security Council, has attached greater importance to its ties with regional actors at all stages of conflict prevention and resolution. With a view to making that collaboration more effective, we would like to highlight the following points.

First, the State has a crucial role in the maintenance of law and order, in addressing the root causes of conflict and in fully adhering to international law while conducting its relations with other countries. At the same time, the United Nations and regional organizations play a vital role in upholding and

promoting the principles of international law that govern friendly relations among States.

Secondly, the United Nations, with its vast experience and expertise in peacebuilding and peacekeeping should provide support and assistance to Member States and regional organizations. Meanwhile, regional organizations have comparative advantages with their in-depth understanding of all aspects of conflict dynamics. Therefore, synergy among the United Nations and regional organizations should be strengthened, including through information-sharing, the exchange of experiences and dialogue facilitation and mediation, where appropriate.

Thirdly, a comprehensive approach should be developed in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, given the interlinkage of all of the issues that we are dealing with in today's world. Economic development and social progress cannot be achieved without a peaceful, stable and secure environment, and vice versa. We therefore strongly believe that it is necessary to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in all political, security, economic and sociocultural areas so as to strengthen their collaboration, including by jointly addressing emerging regional and global challenges.

Finally, as a member State of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Viet Nam would like to share our experience deriving from what we have done in ASEAN and within the cooperation framework of ASEAN and the United Nations. Since its creation, ASEAN has made continuous efforts to turn Southeast Asia from a region of mistrust, turbulence and instability into a region of mutual confidence and cooperation. That achievement may be attributed to ASEAN's efforts at norm-building and sharing. Dialogue and consultation have long been the so-called ASEAN Way, which seeks to narrow differences, promote mutual trust and understanding and build consensus. ASEAN has been taking a leading role in the creation of various ASEAN-led frameworks to engage external partners.

The cooperation between ASEAN and the United Nations is of great importance to ASEAN. We are pleased with the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2016-2020) through various practical activities, including the holding of regular meetings, dialogues on global issues of common concern, capacity-building, information-sharing, training and technical assistance in humanitarian affairs, peacekeeping, efforts to counter terrorism, cybersecurity and so forth.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our strong commitment to working closely with other Member States at the bilateral, regional and international levels towards our common goal of global peace, security and development.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Muhammad Bande (Nigeria): Permit me, through you, Mr. President, to condole with our host, the Government of the United States of America, for the loss of their forty-first President, Mr. George Herbert Walker Bush.

I thank the presidency of Côte d'Ivoire for convening this open debate. My sincere appreciation goes to Mr. Amon-Tanoh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Mr. Jean-Claude Brou, Chairperson of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), for their statements.

Violent conflicts fuelled by bad governance, terrorism and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, among other factors, hamper socioeconomic development, thereby keeping the populace, particularly women and children, in perpetual misery. Sadly, resolving large-scale conflict is often beyond the capacity of any single country. While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security resides with the Security Council, conflict prevention and conflict resolution involve a range of actors who provide distinct, but mutually reinforcing, ways of addressing both the immediate and deeper causes of violent conflict.

Regional and subregional organizations have been engaged in conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation in many parts of the world. They are able to reduce the burden on the Security Council and to provide a key layer of legitimacy to actions taken by the Security Council. They are also better placed to work with stakeholders so as to facilitate dialogue and ensure broader inclusivity.

Consequently, now more than ever, there is a need to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations

and the various regional and subregional organizations around the world. Central to that collaboration is the need to ensure that effective and mutually reinforcing mechanisms — both regional and global — that are flexible and responsive enough to ensure peaceful coexistence among communities are prioritized. In addition, it is imperative to ensure that a means of financing regional-body-led peace-support operations that are authorized by the Security Council and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations can be predictably and sustainably worked out. We owe that to the millions who suffer and are waiting for our help. In that regard, I wish to commend the Secretary-General on the current Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which is a step in the right direction.

In our efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts, we need also to take due cognizance of the structural challenges to peace and security. Those challenges, such as climate change, the mismanagement of natural resources, and cross-border and international crime, are at the root of some of the worst conflicts of our time, and they are best tackled through a broad collaboration among States, subregional and regional organizations and the United Nations.

As we all know, the Lake Chad region has been facing its worst crisis ever, primarily because of the impact of climate change. However, the Lake Chad basin countries have worked together to obtain international support and attention, which is paying off. An array of countries — Norway, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, China, Canada and others — have joined the United Nations in providing financial and technical support to the ongoing efforts aimed not only at conquering Boko Haram but also at working at the same time across all the pillars, as that is the only way forward. Indeed, so successful has that been, since the visit by the Security Council under the United Kingdom presidency in March 2017 and the various pledging conferences in Abuja, Oslo and Berlin, that we are even talking of recharging the basin, so as to restore and/or stabilize the livelihoods of the approximately 45 million people affected by that unfortunate situation. Through it all, ECOWAS, the African Union and United Nations, as was stated yesterday by the President of Côte d'Ivoire (see S/PV.8413), have been working together to galvanize support to that end.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my appreciation to the organizers of this meeting and pledge Nigeria's resolve to continue to support efforts to maintain peace and security in all regions of the world, as we have done since 1960 in the context of peacekeeping and other joint efforts.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.